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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you ever reported any pricing discrepancies to the Attorney General's consumer counsel?

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INSIDE

Thwarted Again

Senate Republicans block efforts to lift the ban on gays from serving in the military.

NATION...Page 14

Fatter Books

When Mio Honzawa starts fifth grade next April, her textbooks will be thicker.

FOCUS...Page 17

Oldest Man

The world's oldest man celebrates his 114th birthday at a retirement home in Montana.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Woman gets 8 yrs. for having sex with 15-year-old boy. PAGE 2
Homeless family's dad detained over 2009 assault case. PAGE 3

Shutdown looms; budget panel could be dissolved

» Senate president, House speaker meeting in the offing
» Despite Senate approval, House tells media to leave chamber

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A government shutdown now looms, with the budget panel still deadlocked as of yesterday afternoon, forcing Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) to call back their respective members. This could lead to the dissolution of the six-member conference committee.

Caught in the middle are thousands of government employees who won't get paid by Oct. 1 unless a balanced budget is passed.

"I don't think we will have a budget passed by Sept. 30," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

8 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

See SHUTDOWN on Page 4

CLARISSA V. DAVID

PEACE VIGIL

People of different races and religions sing *Let There Be Peace on Earth* as they celebrate International Day of Peace organized by the Immanuel United Methodist Church on Sept. 21. The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, was established by the United Nations in 1981 and is observed around the world every Sept. 21.

See story on Page 6

4 LIVE-FIRE TRAINING RANGES

Tinian construction may start 2013-2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian could begin seeing construction of the four proposed live-fire training ranges in 2013 or 2014.

Maj. Gen. David F. Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office, said this will happen only after U.S. Marines start relocating from Okinawa, Japan to Guam in 2012 to 2013.

Once built on Tinian, they will be the largest live-fire training ranges this side of the region, although the size itself is small compared to other ranges of their kind in other areas.

Bice said while the training ranges are being de-

See TINIAN on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Joint Guam Program Office director John J. Jackson, CNMI Military Integration Management Committee coordinator Tom Linden, and JGPO executive director Maj. Gen David Bice at the Saipan International Airport shortly after a media interview yesterday afternoon about the release of the Record of Decision for the Guam and CNMI military buildup's final environmental impact statement.

'NMI to lose $3M if federally-funded DFW programs get work hour cuts'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI stands to lose $3 million in federal funds as well as valuable wildlife species if federally funded employees of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife are not exempted from the planned 16-hour work cuts beginning Oct. 1.

Julia Boland, wildlife biologist at DFW, said this in a letter Tuesday to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and senators, who will hold a session today.

Under the Executive Branch's reduction-in-force, all employees will have reduced work hours, from 80 to 64 per pay period, to live

See NMI on Page 4

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Local

Woman gets 8 yrs. for having sex with 15-year-old boy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 29-year-old woman who had sex with a then 15-year-old boy at her house was sentenced yesterday to eight years in prison for sex abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Geraldine Marie Sanchez to 12 years in jail, all suspended except for the mandatory term of eight years, to be served without parole.

Sanchez was given credit for the six days she had already spent in jail.

She was also sentenced to seven years in prison for sex abuse of a minor in the second degree but this term will run concurrent to the eight-year sentence.

This means Sanchez will spend a total of eight years in jail for both charges.

Sanchez will begin serving her sentence on Oct. 6, 2010. She will be released on Sept. 30, 2018.

"The defendant took advantage of one under her care who was a minor. Even if the court accepted [her] version that the minor solicited sex from her, which the court does not believe, [Sanchez] still had an obligation as an adult to reject such advances and to try to teach him why it was wrong to do so," Wiseman said.

Sanchez was directed to register as a sex offender, undergo HIV testing, and pay a total of $200 in fine and court assessment fee.

She is also barred from having contact with the victim until he reaches the age of 18.

Sanchez was arrested in December 2009 after the boy's mother learned from neighbors that Sanchez had sex with her son when he was just 15.

Sanchez was a neighbor and friend of the victim's family.

A jury trial found Sanchez guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the first and second degrees but not guilty on the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the 4th degree.

At yesterday's sentencing, Sanchez's counsel, assistant public defender Michael Brown, had urged the court to deviate from the mandatory eight years and sentence his client to just a year in prison.

He cited her troubled childhood—sexually abused and a mother at the age of 15.

Brown said the victim was about to turn 16 years old during the week of the incident and if he was 16 when it happened, it would be a 4th degree sexual abuse, subject to a maximum term of one year.

But Wiseman ruled that the facts remain that the victim was under the age of 16 when the abuse was committed upon him.

Wiseman said he is not without compassion but it is for the Legislature to make such accommodations—not the court.

Wiseman said the defendant has no criminal record and has accepted responsibility for her actions. He noted that Sanchez had expressed remorse and apologized to the victim's mother two days after the incident.

Tropical storm warning canceled as Malakas moves farther away

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued an "all clear" condition for Agrihan yesterday morning as Tropical Storm Malakas continued to move away from the region.

The CNMI Emergency Management Office and the National Weather Service in Guam canceled the tropical storm warning for Agrihan as of 5am.

At the time, the center of Malakas was 195 miles west-northwest of Agrihan, 220 miles west-northwest of Pagan, 360 miles north-northwest of Saipan, and 435 miles north-northwest of Guam.

Malakas was seen moving west-northwest at 5 miles per hour and packing maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour.

In the afternoon, Malakas continued to move further away from Agrihan, moving west-northwest at 10 miles per hour with the same maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour.

At 1pm, the center was 210 miles west of Agrihan, 360 miles northwest of Saipan, and 430 miles north-northwest of Guam.

Scattered showers produced additional rainfall through the afternoon yesterday on Saipan and Tinian. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DUE TO WORK HOUR CUTS

Man'amko Center to close on Fridays

The Aging Office has received a memorandum from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs informing them about the austerity measures to be implemented throughout the agency.

Director Rose Mondala told *Saipan Tribune* that the memo they received on Sept. 16 stated that their working hours will be cut and holidays will be unpaid.

Mondala said the anticipated work hour cuts will affect about 18 employees, including herself.

"That's going to really impact us," she said.

The director said even the per diem allowance for DCCA employees who are on official business travel will also be cut in half.

According to Mondala, the Aging Center will be closed every Friday, just like other government agencies that are affected by the work-hour reduction.

Mondala said employees of the Aging Office will probably look for part-time jobs once the memo takes effect.

"I will do my best to help them look for part-time jobs because it's a big cut in our paycheck. But I know it's going to be hard because even the private sector is affected by the economy," she added. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 502509 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 664-4067 • Fax: (670) 664-4069

WIC

Please be advised that the Income Eligibility Guidelines has been extended to June 30, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2009-2010

On March 6, 2009, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines effective July 1, 2009.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
Each Add'l	+6,919	+577	+289	+267	+134
Member Add					

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

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Homeless family's dad detained over 2009 assault case

» *Saipan Tribune* helps DPS in defendant's surrender

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The man whose family took shelter on the stage of the Susupe Beach Park last month voluntarily surrendered to the Department of Public Safety yesterday after learning that police have been looking for him in connection with an assault case that allegedly happened in April 2009.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. confirmed that Noel Saluta turned himself in, was placed under arrest, and is now detained at the Department of Corrections.

Saluta surrendered to detective Simon Manacop at 2:32pm at the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau. Manacop referred Saluta to detective Sean White, who then served the arrest warrant for assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace charges.

It was apparently White who obtained the arrest warrant from Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman last Thursday.

Saluta

Blas issued yesterday morning a press release regarding the outstanding arrest warrant for Saluta. In it, Blas said authorities could not find Saluta so they were asking for the community's assistance in locating him.

After reading the press release yesterday past 1pm, this writer, who has no knowledge of Saluta's whereabouts, was able to obtain his cell phone number.

Through text messages, this writer was able to convince Saluta to surrender to DPS. Saluta said he was not aware about the arrest warrant.

Saluta said he would surrender to Manacop to clear his name and that he intends to file a counter complaint against the alleged victim. His wife, Juliet Saluta, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are hoping that a lawyer will help him in this case.

Saluta also wondered why the arrest warrant was issued only now when the alleged incident happened more than a year ago.

This writer immediately called CIB and informed Manacop about Saluta's intention to surrender to him.

The arrest warrant stems from an April 19, 2009, incident, when Saluta allegedly assaulted another man with a knife at the Fina Sisu Market.

The 40-year-old Saluta recently attracted media attention after he and his family were forced to take shelter at the Susupe Regional Beach Park stage after being turned out from their rented house.

Saluta and his wife Juliet are both jobless. They brought their five children—ages 7, 6, 4, 2, and a 6-month-old—and belongings to the park's stage on Aug. 24 at 1pm after their six-month housing aid program benefits expired on Aug. 15, 2010.

Suspected pedophile pleads guilty

Mark Thomas Doyle, a suspected pedophile who allegedly sexually abused three boys in exchange for money at an Internet shop on Saipan, entered a guilty plea yesterday in the Superior Court.

The 46-year-old Doyle pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree as part of a plea agreement. The recommended prison term is eight years.

The change of plea hearing will continue on Friday at 10am. Associate Judge David Wiseman has yet approve the plea agreement.

Wiseman said he is not comfortable imposing an eight-year prison term on Doyle without verifying whether the suspect has a criminal history.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher said he could contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation to check if Doyle has a prior conviction.

Wiseman noted that the Office of the Attorney General had charged Doyle with four counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree involving three male juveniles.

Gallagher explained that they were not able to prove their case with respect to the third victim. He said the government feels the terms and conditions of the plea agreement are fair.

Gallagher said previous similar cases had the same terms and conditions.

Doyle's counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, said the eight-year prison term is sufficient as his client has accepted responsibility.

Police arrested Doyle in March. The OAG charged him with four counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, and two counts of assault and battery. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Health, water projects in A. Samoa gets funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior has awarded two grants totaling $405,853 to American Samoa to support two Capital Improvement Project projects.

Tony Babauta, assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, signed yesterday the grant award to address the U.S. territory's growing demands on health care services and improving the delivery of potable water.

The grant makes $254,505 available to the American Samoa Power Authority, allowing the Authority to make continuing improvements to the Manu'a water system. The upgrades will greatly improve the quality of services delivered to the residents in the villages of Ta'u and Faleasao.

The remainder of the grant, $151,348, will go toward constructing an extension to the Tafuna Family Health Center. The new wing will accommodate offices, a conference room, and greater storage space for patient records. The outpatient mental health services unit will also be expanded.

"I am pleased to support Governor [Togiola/ Tulafono and the priorities of his administration. The improvements that will be made to ASPA will greatly enhance the quality of services delivered to residents in the villages of Ta'u and Faleasao, providing them with safe and reliable, potable water. Additionally, the expansion of the Family Health Center will help meet growing healthcare demands by providing Tafuna residents with managed care that is more efficient and specialized to meet the community needs," said Babauta. ***(DOI)***

NMI

From Page 1

within the $132 million in projected revenue available for operations in fiscal year 2011.

The fiscal year 2011 budget bill also allows for work hour cuts—16 hours per pay period in the House version, and eight hours in the Senate version.

Regardless of the outcome of the budget bill, the Fitial administration said the reduction-in-force will be in place in fiscal year 2011.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also said yesterday that the administration is still compiling its "essential services" list, which includes positions that will be exempt from a government shutdown if a balanced budget fails to pass before Oct. 1.

But Boland is asking for reconsideration.

"The CNMI stands a strong chance of losing over $3 million in annual federal funds for fish and wildlife programs if federally funded employees are not exempt from the planned RIF," she told Inos and senators.

Boland acknowledged that balancing the budget is extremely challenging.

"I humbly request you consider that the minor benefits that may be gained from including federally funded employees in the intended RIF are greatly outweighed by the negative impacts that will be incurred on the economy and natural resources of the CNMI," she said.

Seven DFW employees have resigned since the notice of the first round of reduction-in-force was issued in April, "and more resignations and early retirements are likely imminent."

With the seven resignations, Boland said that DFW lost 67 years of professional wildlife experience, 32 years of DFW tenure, seven bachelor of science degrees, and five master of science degrees.

"The timing of their exodus is not a coincidence. Again, in the words of Dr. Caslick, applying the RIF to federally funded employees will also 'exacerbate the existing difficulty in recruiting and retaining competent project personnel required to perform grant-funded work,'" she told Inos and senators.

DFW, even if fully staffed and its employees working full time, is designated a "high risk grantee" in accordance with the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program, Boland said. This program contributes over $1.8 million in annual grants.

"If federally funded employees are not allowed [and paid] to work the full 40-hour week, they will not be able to complete grant objectives and federal funding may be denied," she added.

Boland also said without federally funded wildlife programs and protection from locally-funded DFW conservation officers, the CNMI also stands the chance of losing very valuable wildlife species.

"Without the wildlife, we lose the jungles and reefs of the CNMI as we know it. In the long term, this will devastate the economy and the physical and mental health of the human populace. In the words of the chief of the WSR, Dr. Caslick, including federally funded employees in the RIF is 'unwise and ill-advised,'" she said.

Boland has been assigned to Rota since April 2008 as wildlife biologist for DFW.

In June, Boland said between April 2008 and May 2010, an estimated 400 Mariana fruit bats or "fanihis" have been killed by poachers on Rota and DFW seeks to strengthen enforcement efforts to protect the remaining fanihis and help stop poaching.

She said there is currently an ongoing federal investigation regarding a poaching incident that targeted a fruit bat maternity colony in November 2008.

The Guam and CNMI fanihi are listed as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is a violation of federal, Guam, and CNMI law to kill them.

Congress marks Sept. 11 in Capitol ceremony

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), joined her colleagues from the U.S. House of Representatives at a ceremony on Sept. 15, 2010, to remember those who lost their lives during the attacks of Sept.11, 2001.

The Congressional Remembrance Ceremony took place on the east steps of the U.S. Capitol where Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, House Minority Leader John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, provided remarks that paid tribute to the thousands of Americans whose lives were taken on September 11, 2001. Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City was also in attendance at today's ceremony.

"While nine years have passed since the attacks of September 11, 2001, we must never forget the lives of those that were lost, the sacrifices of the first responders, and the tenacity of the American people since that time," Bordallo said. "Let us continue to keep the families of the September 11 victims in our thoughts and prayers and not take for granted that freedom that we enjoy each day." ***(PR)***

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

Manglona, after hearing from Senate members of the conference committee, said they are still deadlocked on whether to cut work hours by 16 or eight per pay period, five days into their formal meetings since last week.

"They are still deadlocked. They are going around in circles," Manglona said in a phone interview.

He said House members "have not even moved an inch."

Manglona said he will instruct the three senators in the committee to "discontinue meeting with their House counterparts until such time the House members are willing to sit down, take the issue of budget seriously, and negotiate in good faith."

But the Senate president said they will be on standby should the House decide to "show a little bit of flexibility—like what the Senate is doing."

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), one of the conferees, said all along, their proposal is to reduce work hours by eight per pay period. The House and the Fitial administration want a 16-hour cut and 13 unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2011.

He said the Senate conferees later expressed willingness to an eight-hour cut and seven unpaid holidays, and to work with the House to pass revenue-generating bills.

The House speaker said only a 16-hour cut and 13 unpaid holidays will balance the $132 million budget.

Tenorio said even if the House and Senate agree on passing the pending revenue generating bills, their impact won't be felt until after six or more months.

"We cannot approve a budget based on pending legislation," he added.

Manglona said he will meet with the House speaker to see how the committee could proceed with their meetings.

He said it is a "very sad and very unfortunate day" for the CNMI that the conference committee has not been able to come to an agreement on the budget.

The government will be forced to shut down, except for essential agencies and offices, if no balanced budget is passed before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

The Fitial administration is now preparing a list of agencies that will be exempt from the shutdown, including the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Safety, and schools.

'Set aside differences'

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he has spoken to both the House and Senate sides "and while they both make sense they have yet to come together."

"I ask that the conferees put aside their differences, come to a compromise and pass the budget. I know it is easier said than done. However, as you already know, our government will come to a halt should the budget not get passed. Only essential employees and essential services will be allowed to operate," he said.

Government employees interviewed on Capital Hill said they are now preparing for the worst—that non-essential or non-critical agencies will be shut down.

"Disagreements and debates are senseless when you consider the limited time frame needed to pass this measure. I ask that you put our people first, our children first, and pass the budget. Our people are suffering and continue to suffer the effects of this narrowing economy," one said.

Deleon Guerrero said while he hears ideas of revenue generating bills, little has been done to address this.

"The back and forth leaves us wondering if there will be a budget at all. So please I beg of you to come together and pass this budget. So we can continue to work on revenue generating measures that will assist our government for the next fiscal year," he said.

The conference committee has been meeting behind closed doors since last week.

Senators who are members of the conference committee would have liked the media to cover yesterday's meeting, but this reporter was asked to leave the chamber by Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the conference committee.

Manglona said "the Senate is willing to negotiate, but there can be no negotiation of the House is willing to say 'take it or leave it.' If we find an agreement, it will only happen when both sides give in some. If both the House and the Senate give in a little, it is our people who win."

So far, the only things agreed on by the conferees are the $86,000 in annual discretionary fund of each lawmaker, increased budget for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, and the restoration of the over $100,000 budget for the Saipan Zoning Office.

After meeting for five days, the conferees have yet to tackle the funding for Rota and Tinian and the leadership account of the Legislature, among other things, because of the contentious issue of work hour cuts.

TINIAN

From Page 1

veloped for the Marines, they could also be used by other services like the Air Force, Army, the Guam National Guard, as well as allied counterparts from Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Between 200 and 400 Marines can be accommodated within a one-week period 12 times a year on Tinian, but because other military branches and allied troops will also be allowed to use the ranges if the Marines are not using them, Tinian could expect hundreds more.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for the entire region in terms of economic growth and development," Bice told Saipan Tribune in an interview at the Saipan International Airport right before going back to Guam yesterday afternoon.

Foreign dignitaries will also come in as a result of having allied forces train on Tinian, so it makes the region a hub for diplomacy, Bice said.

Bice also sees the Marianas as a hub for education because of professional services needed to support the military, including doctors, lawyers, dentists and accountants.

"It also becomes a catalyst for future growth and development for the entire region, not just in the military, but a ripple effect across the economy. We're talking about Guam and CNMI. It makes the Marianas a hub in terms of transportation, communication, banking and finance, all the related activities associated with the whole buildup. That's where the opportunities would come in," he said.

Bice presented Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with a copy of the Record of Decision for the Guam and CNMI military buildup's final environmental impact statement yesterday morning.

The release of the 187-page Record of Decision means that military projects related to the buildup may now proceed.

Fitial said his administration is now thoroughly reviewing the Record of Decision.

"Summarily, I am pleased to see that Tinian is poised to move ahead with plans to construct four training ranges that will be regularly utilized by the Marines relocating to Guam," Fitial said.

He said Bice also hinted at the likelihood that the training ranges may be made available to the other military components in Guam, like the National Guard, the Army and the Air Force.

"This is great news for the Commonwealth as having such drastic increases in activity on Tinian will contribute to stimulating economic growth and development," he said.

Bice and Jackson also met with the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands, their aides, acting Commerce Secretary Ivan A. Blanco, press secretary Angel Demapan, and Tom Linden, chairman of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee.

Bice, who was accompanied by John J. Jackson, director of JGPO, also met with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

He said Chamber members asked about economic opportunities between now and the actual arrival of the Marines to the Marianas.

Bice said businesses could start reaching out to the military community and tourism industry in Guam.

"There's a large-scale exercise going on in the Marianas right now. There are virtually no available hotel rooms in Guam because of military men and women and tourism there. And so there should be a reaching out to ensure that people know that there is availability here on Saipan… I think there are opportunities here we could be working on," he added.

Because training ranges on Guam are not enough, Tinian lands will have to be used.

The military plans to develop four live-fire training ranges on Tinian: A platoon battle course, an automated combat pistol/military police firearms qualification course, rifle known distance range, and a field firing range.

The northern two-thirds of Tinian public lands are leased by the Defense Department, and this leased property already has existing battalion level non-live fire training areas.

All these are related to the relocation from Okinawa to Guam of some 8,600 Marines and their 9,000 dependents, as well as the construction of facilities and infrastructure to support training and operations on Guam and Tinian for the relocated Marines.

Bice said the U.S. Pacific Command has also just started a study on the possibility of having training sites in the region, including the Marianas.

Once this materializes, Tinian could have larger joint military training areas.

8 days to go before NMC presidential search deadline

» Janet King's term as BOR chair expires today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The committee tasked to look for the next president of the Northern Marianas College has only eight days to go before its self-imposed deadline ends.

As of yesterday the Presidential Search Committee remains mum on the status of its search, failing to respond to inquiries if the committee will adhere to its timeline.

The Board of Regents adopted the presidential search timeline in early May. Based on this schedule, the committee members—nine individuals from various sectors and appointed by the board chair—have until the end of this month to complete the task of hiring a new chief executive officer.

The initial deadline to accept applicants for the position has already been extended in June for another two weeks. The board also solicited the community's input in July on what it wants for an NMC president. The search committee was scheduled to interview candidates for the position in August.

Yet up to this time, the committee remains secretive about the status of its search and whether it's doing what it's supposed to be doing based on the timeline.

In a visit to the campus yesterday, faculty and college employees said they are clueless about the committee's activities as they haven't heard anything from the group, including whether they have begun interviewing candidates. They're hopeful that the group is doing its best to complete its task on schedule.

Besides the extension of the job announcement, the committee had only issued a short update on its search, saying they received "several" applications for the post.

"We have no idea at all… if the candidates have already been interviewed or not," a faculty member who asked not to be named told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The committee is scheduled to submit the names of the top two or three candidates to the regents this month. At the end of the month, the search committee is expected to be dissolved.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from board chair Janet H. King yesterday but calls were not returned as of press time.

King's term as a regent also expires today. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to re-appoint her or name a replacement. King earlier expressed willingness to continue as NMC regent if re-appointed.

Board vice chair Maria Paz Younis is expected to serve in her stead in the meantime.

Fitial appointed King in May 2008. She was elected chair in January following the resignation of former board chair Joey San Nicolas, also from Tinian.

With the expiration of King's term, the board now has two vacancies. Charles Cepeda resigned earlier in the year.

NMC students vote for new officers; Tiples running for prexy unopposed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students of Northern Marianas College cast their votes yesterday for the 2010-2011 officers of the Associated Students of NMC.

Antonio Tiples and Mario Calilong both ran unopposed for the president and vice president positions. Ki Young Kim is running for the treasurer seat.

Inos

No one filed a candidacy for secretary but voters are allowed to write in nominees, just like for the three other posts.

Tiples believes he is a good candidate because he enjoys helping out.

"I am also responsible and like doing the best job possible. I have also had previous leadership roles. While in high school I was president of my school's chapter of the National Honor Society, so I have had experience with the stresses of leading an organization. I am also currently president of my church's youth group. Although helping lead a student body of college students would be a new challenge, I look forward to the opportunity to learn and experience all the obstacles to come," said Tiples, a liberal arts student.

Prior to yesterday's election, students conducted a debate for all three candidates last week.

Miles Rodriguez held the ASNMC presidency last school year.

According to Perry Inos Jr., NMC student activities and leadership program manager, 131 students cast their votes as of 2:53pm yesterday. They are eyeing at least half of this semester's total enrollees of about 1,200 to take part in the polls.

In a visit to the campus yesterday, most students were seen casting their votes during their lunch break and after classes.

The poll opened from 9am through 6pm yesterday at the college's Students Center in Building J.

Inos said ballots will be sealed and locked at the students' center for today's tabulation and counting.

Winners are expected to be known today or before the investiture ceremony on Sept. 27.

Inos said the college needs competent, capable, and good role models for all students in the campus.

"We hope to see leaders who are not just focusing on Students First, but on students' success as well," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

After the ballot counting today, results will be verified by the college council prior to announcing the winners.

BOE: No to lower Praxis scores

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has no plans of lowering its passing scores for the Praxis tests as this will be inconsistent with its goal of promoting high student learning for the youth of the CNMI.

"[The policy] hasn't changed…and there was no discussion even in the committee level about changing our policy on Praxis," board member Herman T. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday.

He said the board is hopeful that all teachers would pass this requirement on time.

The U.S. Department of Education has given PSS until July 31, 2011 to have all of its teaching staff be deemed highly qualified personnel. Non-highly qualified teachers would not be allowed in classrooms after that date.

The Board of Education has sets three requirements for a teacher to be considered highly qualified: a degree, valid teaching certificates, and passing two Praxis tests.

Praxis 1 are tests for reading, writing and mathematical abilities, while Praxis 2 are tests for content knowledge in the subject that the teacher teaches.

As of August this year, 77 percent of PSS teachers are already highly qualified; 23 percent are still in the process of completing the requirements.

Guerrero said the possibility of lowering the passing scores for the Praxis tests is "dim" because many teachers have been successfully passing the requirement.

This past summer, PSS held many seminars meant to enable teachers, teacher aides, and school counselors to meet the certification requirements.

PSS said it will continue the summer institutes in 2011 to assist the remaining non-HQT personnel. To date, there are still 159 teachers who have yet to pass their Praxis 2.

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FROM MAY TO AUGUST

Bureau orders closure of seven establishments

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health ordered the closure of seven establishments on Saipan for serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

These establishments, majority of which are food operations, were issued closure orders from May through August this year. Bureau data showed that majority of these violators have reopened after complying with all the requirements from the health department.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from the office of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez showed that the following establishments were ordered closed:

- Cabrera Pang Hong on June 8
- Esios Primo Palingcud on June 17
- Mountain Fresh Water in As Teo on July 13
- ADP 172 on Aug. 10
- Grab-N-Go BBQ in San and As Lito Jose on Aug. 20
- Connie's BBQ in Susupe on Aug. 23.

The health department provided each establishment time to correct their deficiencies and comply with health and sanitation standards before they were allowed to reopen.

Majority of food operations on Saipan garnered the highest rate of Grade A during separate inspections.

In May alone, 28 eating and drinking establishments were rated the highest level, while four firms were given Grade B marks.

In June, 40 establishments got the highest rating of Grade A; six got Grade B.

July recorded 32 fully compliant establishments with Grade A ratings while five were marked Grade B.

A total of 25 establishments received BEH's highest rating in August, while only 1 establishment got a Grade B rating.

There are three rating levels—from Grade A to C—before an establishment is issued a closure order by the health department.

Second suspect in Micro Beach shooting surrenders

Alex Palacios Borja Jr., the second suspect in the shooting incident that happened before dawn Saturday at Micro Beach in Garapan, surrendered yesterday to the Department of Public Safety.

Borja

Borja voluntarily surrendered to DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, who then served him with the arrest warrant, according to police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr.

Borja is being detained at the Department of Corrections on charges of illegal possession of a firearm. A $5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon.

Police first arrested Andave Camacho, the person who allegedly actually fired the rifle.

A detective stated in his report that during his interview with Camacho, he learned that Camacho took out an AR-15 rifle from a friend's car and fired it in the air to stop a fight that was going on in the parking lot near the pavilion.

After firing, Camacho put the gun on the bed of his pickup truck and left with Borja and Frank Atalig.

The detective said Camacho drove to Upper Miha where he dropped off Borja, who was carrying the gun, at his house.

Police arrested Camacho less than an hour later.

Witnesses said that Camacho fired the rifle into the air several times at the Micro Beach pavilion. After firing the gun, the drunk Camacho allegedly pointed the gun at a crowd on the beach.

Camacho earlier told a detective that he only popped a firecracker and pretended he was holding a pistol.

Detectives, however, later recovered four .223 caliber shell casings at the crime scene. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Participants of the International Day of Peace celebration pose for a group photo after the candlelight vigil at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa last Sept. 21.

Saipan community comes together for peace vigil

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Immanuel United Methodist Church on Saipan celebrated the International Day of Peace Tuesday night with a candlelight vigil that spanned race and religion.

Congregation and community members gathered at the IUMC in Chalan Kanoa to light candles symbolizing peace and unity.

The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, was established by the United Nations in 1981 and is observed around the world every Sept. 21.

Pastor Millie Carroll said participants on Saipan joined millions around the world in commemorating this internationally proclaimed celebration.

"With so much tension in the world, it seems like we need to make it obvious that we are for peace," Carroll told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Carroll, the candlelight vigil was non-political and non-religious and also involved reading of famous peace sayings from around the world and the singing of peace songs.

Carroll made an important reference to Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa and joint winner of the esteemed Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

She said people can learn important lessons about peace from Mandela, like resolving problems even with people who seem awful, rejecting the concept of "we against them," and trying to find the good in every person.

The candlelight vigil concluded with the singing of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. After the vigil, participants each wrote a message on the peace banner that will be sent to the U.N. headquarters.

Sol Corpuz, an IUMC member, said the vigil was a call for peace and unity among locals, Filipinos, Americans, Koreans, and other ethnicities that dwell on the island.

According to Corpuz, inner peace would bring about bigger peace in the community and the world. "If you have that inner peace, external peace will come upon us naturally," she said.

Losana Rogoyawa, another IUMC member who hails from Fiji, said "in this time of uncertainty, the best way is for all of us to have peace so we can focus on the good instead of the bad."

Rogoyawa said people should learn to be kind to others, respect one another, and reach out to the rest of the community "to make the island a better place for all of us."

Although the turnout was "more than they feared," Carroll said she is "pleased that the wider community joined the congregation's call for peace on all levels."

Among these non-members were United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed, Sr. Stella Mangona of the Good Shepherd Sisters, and members of other religious beliefs.

"I think everybody should participate and work together for the growth and development of the CNMI community," he said.

Syed urged the community to go out of their jurisdiction of race and religion and work altogether. "If we open our hearts to others, learn to accept them, that's when we can have peace," he said.

Instead of looking at our differences, Carroll said people should focus on similarities and learn how to work together for peace.

"Even if we are different, we have to learn how to appreciate these differences," the pastor emphasized.

Carroll added that lack of tolerance among people ends in problems and conflicts. "Tolerance is very needed in our island and in the world. It's needed on every level," she said.

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Military Relocation

On behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Department of the Army (Army), after carefully weighing the environmental consequences of the proposed action, as well as considering operational and training requirements, strategic requirements, obligations under treaties and other international agreements, public comments, and cost; announce their decision to proceed with the Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Military Relocation. A Record of Decision (ROD) has been prepared for the Guam and the CNMI Military Relocation based on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the careful consideration of all comments provided by federal regulatory agencies, Guam regulatory agencies, and the public.

Implementing the actions necessary to support the military relocation efforts analyzed in the EIS will be a multi-agency, multi-year effort undertaken by the DoN, Army, Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Guam utilities, Guam agencies, and various private entities. The ROD selects to implement the preferred alternatives as denoted in the FEIS for each of the following actions, with exceptions as noted:

(1) *Marine Corps:* (a) Development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support approximately 8,600 Marines and their 9,000 dependents being relocated from Okinawa to Guam. (b) Development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support training and operations on Guam and Tinian;
DoN has elected to defer selection of a specific site for the construction and operation of a live fire training range complex in the Route 15 area on Guam pending completion of the Section 106 consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Likewise, a selection regarding implementation of a roadway improvement project calling for a realignment of Route 15 is hereby deferred pending selection of a specific site for the construction.

(2) *Navy:* Construction of a new deep-draft wharf with shoreside infrastructure improvements creating the capability in Apra Harbor, Guam to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier;
DoN has elected to defer selection of a specific site for the construction and operation of a transient aircraft carrier berth within Apra Harbor for the near term. However, the analysis presented in the FEIS, including the marine resources impacts analysis, provides sufficient information to allow the DoN to fully consider the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of locating a transient aircraft carrier berth and make a programmatic decision to locate a transient aircraft carrier berth generally within Apra Harbor, which is the only deep draft harbor on the island of Guam that could support such a berth.

(3) *Army:* Development of facilities and infrastructure on Guam to support relocating approximately 600 military personnel and their 900 dependents to establish and operate an Air and Missile Defense Task Force (AMDTF).
As of the date of this ROD, the DoD has not decided to construct and operate an AMDTF on Guam. The decision on whether to assign this mission to the Army will be made pending the results of the ongoing regional and global Ballistic Missile Defense architectural and capability studies. It will also be based in part on the EIS for this proposed action with Guam as one site that is under consideration for an AMDTF mission. The FEIS was prepared noting that if the mission were assigned to Army, the alternatives presented in the FEIS represent how Army could implement the action on Guam. Army has selected the preferred alternatives described in Volume 5 of the FEIS as the appropriate manner to implement the proposed action if and when the mission is assigned.

(4) *Utilities:* Renovation and development of additional capacity for power, water, and wastewater systems, both on base and off base, to support the increased demand from the new Marine Corps Base and associated growth in DoD and civilian population caused by the Relocation.

(5) *Off-base Roadways:* Improvements to off base roads, bridges, and intersections to support increased traffic and offset significant impacts caused by the Relocation.

Each of the major actions noted above encompasses several construction projects to provide required facilities and infrastructure. The Notice of Availability and a summary of the ROD will be published in the Federal Register. The ROD in its entirety is available on http://www.guambuildupeis.us.

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'Career fair helps students start their careers'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
IT&E representatives talk to high school students about career opportunities during the PSS Career Fair yesterday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

The PSS Career Fair for the Cooperative Education and Training Program has helped many high school students start their careers in their chosen fields, according to program coordinator Tyce Mister.

"Some of these students are offered trainee positions, while others get hired after the program," said Mister during yesterday's career fair at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Referred to as the Co-Op, the PSS Cooperative Education and Training Program is designed to help prepare students for the job market in the CNMI. It has two components: Cooperative Education on campus and the Cooperative Training off campus.

About 30 government agencies and private businesses took part in the career fair for the Co-Op fall semester program.

The career fair accommodated students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Rota High School, and the Secondary Transition Program for Special Education.

Mister said the fair is a great avenue for high school students to be signed up with different companies who invite them for interviews and, once selected, will provide them with necessary on-the-job training.

Maria Reyes of Marianas High School said participating in the career fair was fun because she learned a lot about interviews and choosing jobs.

"The career fair can help me decide which job I want to do in the future," said Reyes, who is considering a position that entails office and administrative work.

According to Mister, some of the trainees have been employed by companies like Power 99, Hyatt Regency, IT&E, and Pacific Islands Club, among others, through the Co-Op program.

Evangelyn Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that she joined the Hyatt Regency team through the Co-Op program in 2001.

"Right after high school graduation, I got hired by Hyatt as a guest service officer," she said.

Sablan said the career fair introduced her to the possible careers in different companies and what being part of the actual workforce is about.

Nine years after joining the Co-Op, Sablan said she has been promoted as Camp Hyatt Team Leader.

"Students should find and pursue what they are interested in and be confident in applying for the jobs they like," Sablan advised.

Rota students

Teacher Antenille Santos accompanied 16 students from Rota High School who took part in the career fair.

"Rota has never really had job fairs so this is a really great opportunity for our students," said Santos.

Santos said the Rota students took advantage of the career fair so they can experience firsthand how to present themselves to potential employers.

She was pleased that the students heeded her advice to be presentable and dress appropriately for the event, arriving in smart casual attire.

Shane Ogo, one of the Rota students, said the career fair is a good opportunity for them. "It's good to know that there are different types of jobs out there. It opens up a lot of opportunities for us seniors," he said.

Santos commended PSS for showing support to the Rota students by shouldering their transportation expense.

Special education

Secondary transition coordinator Joanne Nicholls said about 25 of their program students participated in the career fair.

"It's better for our students to access all available options for them. We try to promote inclusion for our students," she said.

Nicholls said the career fair is a great way for students to experience handing out their resumes, getting scheduled for interviews, and meeting prospective employers in an informal setting.

According to Nicholls, successful students of the transition program tell her that the career fair is the most important part of their work.

Fire hits CK house Saturday, no one hurt

- Residents claim firefighters were slow
- Fire chief says they observe safety issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
This semi-concrete house in Chalan Kanoa was hit by a fire on Saturday morning. No one was hurt in the blaze.

A fire of unknown cause broke out at a semi-concrete duplex along Anita Avenue in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday morning. Some residents in the area claimed that the firefighters were slow in extinguishing the blaze.

Fire chief Tom Manglona, however, said yesterday that, based on information from their operations manager, firefighters were not able to immediately shoot water into the burning house because the building was still "energized."

"We were waiting for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to arrive to shut down the power to the area. That's a safety issue," Manglona said.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that the fire broke out at 9am in the southern part of the house.

Blas said no one was reported injured as the occupants were able to get out from the house.

Blas said arson was ruled out and that investigators are looking at faulty electrical wiring as the possible cause of the fire.

The fire damaged the southern portion of the house.

Some residents in the area told *Saipan Tribune* that firefighters arrived 10 to 15 minutes after the fire broke out, but they did not do anything at once.

They said the firefighters only started to extinguish the fire some 25 to 30 minutes later.

Manglona said their personnel will not engage in firefighting activities until such time the safety issue has been addressed properly.

Some residents also said the nearby fire hydrant had no water but Manglona said the forestry truck had water.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday greetings to Pacific Islands Club's Mar Pabalan, who celebrated his birthday on Sept. 21. Greetings come from his PIC family.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 23, 1999

US gives back Tinian land to CNMI

The U.S. Navy turns over today to the CNMI government more than 5.2-million square meters of land on Tinian which will be used for the expansion of its airport. A brief turnover ceremony will be held on Tinian in the presence of Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and Commonwealth Ports Authority officials. The Division of Public Lands earlier approved a conditional conveyance of certain U.S. military lands to the ports authority for the expansion of West Tinian Airport. Under the turnover agreement, CPA would allow the US military to use the airport and give it landing rights.

HANMI: 'We did our best'

Although the CNMI was able to drum up support in its campaign against federal takeover during the recent U.S. Congressional hearing in Washington, Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Ron Sablan said it is still too early to declare victory. "However, I do believe we did our best and we told our side of the story in a convincing way," he said. According to Sablan, the CNMI government and the business community presented a united stand built on solid facts to back up all the arguments against the federalization of local labor and immigration. "This came as a great deal of confidence and I believe it made a favorable impression not only in the hearing but also in the private meetings that we had during the week," he said.

Sept. 23, 2002

Creation of a film office part of NMI workforce dev't plan

The Legislature's immediate passage of a bill proposing the creation of a film office in the CNMI is needed since it is part of the government's Workforce Management Improvement Plan. Based on the plan, which began implementation this year, a film office has to be established in FY 2002. The project calls for a $40,000 initial funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to employ a consultant from the Association of Film Commissioners International or AFCI. "Technical assistance funds will be needed to hire a consultant from the most respected association in the film industry, AFCI, to assist the CNMI in developing a strategic plan for its film office," the workforce plan said. A portion of the fund would also be used for the development of multilingual promotional materials for the NMI Film Office.

Manglona: Extend annual alien fee to 2 yrs

Rota-Department of Labor and Immigration resident director Thomas Manglona is pushing for an amendment of a local labor law that would allow employers to pay the $225 alien registration fee only once every two years, instead of yearly. In an interview, Manglona said this would be a way to help businesses amid the current economic crisis. "I'm really pushing for this one. This is one way of helping out the businesses because they're really suffering, not only on Rota, but Tinian and Saipan as well," Manglona said. "I want to make a recommendation, a suggestion to help the businesses in the next two to three years by making the $225 fee imposed on the employers extended to two or three years, as opposed to one year," he said.

Sept. 23, 2004

Dekada to hold meetings on citizenship petition

Newly organized Dekada Movement aims to hold meetings with different groups of nonresident workers to fully explain itself and its petition to have eligible nonresidents in the CNMI be granted U.S. citizenship. "We want to meet with concerned employees as a group to ensure clarity. We want to fully explain to them our intention because I know that they have many questions," said Dekada Movement leader Boni Sagana. Sagana, whose previous landmark case resulted in a policy change allowing nonresident workers multiple jobs in the CNMI, said that the coverage now of the petition includes those who have stayed in the Commonwealth for five years and up.

Contests to promote Refalúwasch language and culture among youth

The Carolinian Affairs Office under director Victorino N. Igitol announced that it would host several contests beginning tonight in celebration of Cultural Heritage Month. Events include the Speech Contest, Carolininan Attire Contest, and the first ever CAO Challenge Bowl. According to CAO cultural program coordinator Angie W. Iginoef-Mangarero, all contests will be conducted at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan. All participants must be able to speak and understand the Carolinian language. She said schools have already been notified of the contests, all of which carry the theme Refalúwasch or Carolinian.

Labor ombudsman keynotes Tinian chamber meeting

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS *Tucson* arrives on Saipan today

The USS *Tucson*, a 362-foot Los Angeles class submarine with approximately 110 officers and crew, is arriving on Saipan this morning, Sept. 23. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking at hosting a welcome reception for the officers and crew of the *Tucson*. The Chamber will be represented at the arrival briefing. "Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese. The *Tucson* is scheduled to depart in the early part of next week. ***(SCC)***

Retirement group sets membership meeting tomorrow

The Commonwealth Retirement Association is having a general membership meeting today, Sept. 23, 2010, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, at 6pm. Important matters will be discussed regarding the Retirement Fund. Those active employees with the government who are members of the defined benefit plan are welcome to attend. For more information, call Juan M. Sablan at 287-5877. ***(PR)***

Attention to absentee voters

The Commonwealth Election Commission is informing all registered voters who will be away from the Northern Mariana Islands on Election Day that they need to apply for absentee voting in order to receive a ballot on which they could cast their vote. The commission will only send ballots to those who apply for absentee voting.

All requests to vote by absentee must be completed and submitted to the commission by 4:30pm, Chamorro standard time, Oct. 8, 2010. Applications to vote by absentee voting may be downloaded and printed at http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/downloads/absentee ballot application.pdf and the application may be sent to the commission by mail, facsimile, or be scanned then emailed.

Anyone requiring more information on any election matter may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to executivedirector@pticom.com or info@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(CEC)***

UoG seeks submission to literary journal

The University of Guam seeks submissions from the region for its next edition of *Storyboard*, UOGs literary journal. The Pacific islands are bracing themselves for a tidal wave of change. As the tide rises, we must use our stories as sails and navigate the ocean of our destiny.

Storyboard, the University of Guam's literary journal, is seeking stories, essays, art and photography, which address the theme, "Navigating the future." For more information or to submit to Storyboard 11, email Storyboard11@gmail.com or call P.K. Harmon at (671) 735-3038 or Leslie Reynolds at 735-3039.

All submissions are due by Nov. 11, 2010. Some topic areas to consider include: the past, silence, militarization, change, leadership, power, violence, colonization, self-determination, family, culture, language, knowledge, transition, the sky, the ocean, island life, diaspora, imagination, love. ***(PR)***

Next Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Oct. 8-10, 2010, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple.

For the ME community, the weekend planning meeting is on Thursdays at 6:30pm at Jake and Jackie Van Dam's. Call 285-9272 for directions.

For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

- Jake and Jackie Van Dam, 285-9272, jcqlnvndm@gmail.com
- Jun and Linda Pangelinan, 483-4111, linpangelinen@gmail.com
- John and Vicky Mafnas, 285-8454, vbmafnas@yahoo.com
- You may also contact the ecclesial team/executive board members:
- Fr. Ike Ayuyu, 234-8888, or ikeayuyu@gmail.com
- Vince and Hilma Castro, 287-8089, or hilmacastrome@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman High School sets Open House Night

The Kagman High School will be hosting an Open House Night on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, from 5:30pm to 7:45pm. All parents and guardians are invited to visit with their students' teacher, tour the high school, and receive important information about the 2010-2011 school year. For questions or additional information, call 237-3840. ***(PR)***

Courtesy car seat inspection on Saturday

In line with the 2010 National Child Passenger Safety Week campaign on Sept. 19-25, 2010, DPS traffic officers will be conducting a courtesy car seat inspection.

The inspection is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, from 8am to 12pm,. at the McDonald's parking lot along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau. ***(DPS)***

235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November

FINEGAYAN, Guam—The Marine Forces Pacific Forward—Guam and CNMI and the 3rd Marine Division Association—Guam Chapter will host the 235th birthday of the Marine Corps on Nov. 6, 2010, Saturday, at the Sheraton Laguna Hotel Guam Resort.

Everyone is invited to attend this special affair. Please stay tuned for details. ***(PR)***

Attention to all FSM citizens in NMI

This is to inform all citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia residing in the Northern Mariana Islands that there is a task force committee coming from Palikir to conduct political education on the proposed amendments to the FSM constitution.

The schedule of meeting are as follows:

- Sunday (Sept. 26, 2010), at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, from 5pm to 7pm for the Chuukese community, as requested.
- Monday (Sept. 27, 2010), at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe, from 5pm to 7pm.

Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings so you may be ready to vote and express your opinions on the proposals before the upcoming national general election in March 2011. ***(PR)***

ABE extends placement testing

NMC's Adult Basic Education Extended Placement Testing for General Educational Development, Adult School, and English as a Second Language is scheduled for Sept. 22 – 24, 2010, from 9am to 4pm.

For more information, contact the Adult Basic Education Office at 234-3690 Ext. 1723, 1724, or 1721 located in Blg.G at the As Terlaje Campus.

In addition, to ratchet up efforts to recruit instructors, NMC is encouraging all interested individual to submit their application at NMC Human Resource Office located in building P. All applications will then be forward to the ABE State Office for review and then routed to respective content area departments for certification.

The Adult Basic Education Program receives the bulk of its funding from the U.S. Department of Education/ Office of Vocational and Adult Education. ***(NMC)***

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce will be hosting federal labor ombudsman Pam Brown as their keynote speaker for their September General Membership Meeting today, Sept. 23.

The meeting will be held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's Tinian Function Room, from 11am to 1pm.

"The Chamber is hoping that Mrs. Brown can clear up much of the confusion that most businesses are facing as a result of the US federalization of the CNMI's immigration," said Tinian Chamber president Phillip Mendiola-Long.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce has been operating on the island of Tinian for over 25 years and currently consists of over 50 active members ranging from a large casino/hotel operation (employs over 600 people) to the small Donni Sali (hot pepper) single person harvesters and farmers.

"Tinian's business community is already burdened with the high cost of doing business as an outer island of the CNMI. Compound that with the uncertainty of the economy, uncertainty of continued government employment and now the uncertainty of foreign investment and foreign labor makes the thought of a successful business near impossible. We need to start by creating a business environment that is founded on certainty, that is why we have invited the Federal Ombudsman to our meeting in order to establish the first steps toward certainty. …Only then will businesses start to reinvest and create new jobs," said Mendiola-Long.

Tinian Chamber members' attendance to this event is free as long as dues are paid up to date. Non-members are invited to this presentation but a $10 fee will be collected to cover the cost of hosting the venue and refreshments.

For more information, visit www.TinianChamber.com. ***(PR)***

APATANG COMPLETES AIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A CNMI son finished his Advanced Individual Training on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. SPC David John R. M. Apatang, right, took his AIT at Ft. Sill for 19 weeks, where he also took his Basic Combat Training. His Primary MOS is 14J. He will be stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas, where his family will accompany him. SPC Apatang is married to Chasmyn Santos Apatang and is the son of retired 1Sgt. David and Tonie M. Apatang.

Jesus Castro Castro/ Fremina Atalig Castro
PO Box 2603 Hagatna, GU 96932
Telephone: (671) 777-2947

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF V.J.C.C., A Minor Child, By: JESUS CASTRO CASTRO and FERMINA ATALIG CASTRO, Petitioners.	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0502(R) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 22, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom Rota, before the Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

DATED this 21st day of September 2010.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/
By Deputy Clerk of Court

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday September 24, 2010 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

AGENDA

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of May 28, 2010 meeting
3. Docket 09-1 – CUC Electric Division.
   - LEAC rate – October 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 and related matters
   - OSROCO procurement [oil spill response plan]
   - Georgetown report – renewable energy standards
4. Docket 09-3 – Telecommunications
   - USAC Certification: Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation [MTC] and PTI Pacifica, Inc.
   - MTC – Regulatory review: insurance, tariff amendments, service quality standards, institution of Federal standards, contract review protocol, interim DID tariff.
5. Administrative business:
   - Resolution addressing staff protocol
   - Administrative order – delegation of authority
6. Other business

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

NEWS
ONE IN SEVEN LIVING IN POVERTY
Please Give
WILL WORK FOR FOOD
"I USED TO PRAY FOR HOPE and CHANGE.... NOW, I JUST HOPE SOMEBODY WILL GIVE ME SOME CHANGE."

The humanizing power of laughter

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It was after Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in 1994 that Filipinos demonstrated their penchant for laughing at themselves in the midst of a crisis. The recent tragedy of Chinese tourists in Manila spawned merciless jokes on the police's ability to do anything (or not being able to do anything!) in beleaguered Pinas.

One of the gifts of the Internet is the ease with which jokes are passed around. There is something humanizing about the ability to hang on to the lightness of being, particularly when the heavy tomé of religious fanaticism and calcified moralism, the hubris of politics, and the false pride of culture, is thick in our midst.

Intolerance, of course, has been around awhile. In our corporate memory, the synagogue Jews were no fans of the zealous disciples of Iesu, and after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans, Christ disciples took turns in ridiculing the Jews. Then it was the Orthodox gentiles who looked down on the Catholics who proceed anyway to convert the pagans and established the Holy Roman Empire. The Moslems of the realm occasioned the renaissance of learning in Spain (remember Cordoba?) while the Knight Templars banished mosques and minarets out of Europe.

National Catholics in turn criticized the excesses of Rome and Europe's War of the Roses ensued. Monarchs carved their own empires without papal blessing; ordinary religious freedom loving folks found the New World. The expanse of the terrain from the Allegheny to the Rocky Mountains made room for almost everyone. Earlier, the Puritans preened so some folks had to move over to Rhode Island. Mary's children had Maryland, and the Germans had Pennsylvania. Presbyteries sprouted all over New England and the Methodist circuit riders daily mounted their horses in the Midwest to the plains and the prairies, to bring salvation to the lost and wandering souls, or at least, teach them how to sing and fellowship.

Reviling the Jews went on 2,000 years from Russia to America, across the full girth of Gaia, until the sons and daughters of Israel said, "Enough!" Zionist post-WWII gathered the remnants of the Holocaust and carved their homeland in the land of their ancestors.

Abraham, the father of the three major religions emanating from the Middle East—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—began with a big hoopla before it was a Torah. In his old age, he heard the unmistakable call to embark on a journey of adventure, into a far and unknown land, with the promise that he shall be the father of many nations. Abrams was no longer a spring chicken and his wife Sarah way past childbearing age. "Is this a joke," one can almost hear the patriarch scream at the Mystery.

Twasn't. Second laugh, Sarah was told she would be with a child. We will skip the science on this one, but either because of Sarah's laughter when the annunciation was made, or in gratitude to the smiling Canaanite deity *El,* Sarah's son Isaac literally means, *"One who laughs/will laugh."* Who would name

See THE HUMANIZING on Page 13

Multiplying your greatest asset

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."—Antoine De St. Exupery

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

A simple shift in your leadership style could double the capacity of your organization. That's a powerful statement, but it's a claim that has been proven in research by authors Liz Wiseman and Greg Mckeown in their book *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter.*

If you've had the opportunity to work for an outstanding leader who inspired confidence and motivated you to perform at your very best, then you know about their ability to get you to work harder and make you feel valued for your contribution. Let me share a personal story of how this was accomplished in my life.

When I was in graduate school in 1982, I was recruited by Gary Poppleton, who was the director over evening school programs at Utah State University. He not only hired me to work for his division to expand their enrollment; I learned he had a much larger plan to also work with other directors to grow all of the divisions under what was called LifeSpan Learning Programs, which included: continuing education, enrichment courses, correspondence (precursor to online) courses, and satellite degree programs.

He confided that he wanted me to help him hire four other graduate students and then lead the group to increase enrollment. His confidence in my ability inspired me to rise to the challenge and I helped chose a team that worked well together. We decide that each of us would be accountable for one of the five divisions, but that we would brainstorm and work together to come up with ideas that would achieve the ultimate goal to increase enrollment. Gary provided guidance and direction, but allowed us a lot of latitude. When I told him that I'd like the team to have a title other than "graduate assistant" to improve our image when we met with people, he let us come up with our own name and paid for business cards to be printed. We dubbed ourselves "Product Design Specialists" and I designed a snappy logo for the card. Gary also allowed me to completely design a work center that included a large light table, and storage and filing system. He then had a carpenter build it to my exact specifications.

We threw ourselves into the work by taking surveys, designing brochures, ads, radio copy, going to fairs, and creating dioramas to attract and sign up students into the various programs. We were crazy, had fun, and significantly increased enrollment in all of the programs and doubled it in some.

Looking back, I realize that it was Gary's leadership style that inspired me and the others to be extremely productive, and his confidence in me that caused me to take personal ownership. He was lavish with praise for the group and recognized our efforts. I can't remember him ever stepping in to take care of disciplinary issues because we took care of any problems within the group. We realized the good thing we had and when one of the workers started to slack off, we were all over him to get his act together or we would take him off the team—he shaped up.

According to Wiseman and Mckeown, Gary Poppleton would be considered a "Multiplier" because he brought out the best in us and was able to get more intelligent action, better problem solving, and more concentrated effort from our team. Their in-depth research identifies the leadership characteristics that are able to get, on average, twice the capacity from people than do leaders at the other end of the spectrum, called "Diminishers." These "leaders" are absorbed in their own ability and deplete the energy of those around them, and they may not be aware of their actions. In reality, no one is at either extreme; rather, they are usually somewhere between the two.

The key for you to develop more of the Multiplier characteristics is to be aware of the Diminisher qualities that tend to stifle the talent and contribution your people can make to your department or organization. Wiseman and Mckeown suggest that if Diminishers are unwilling to change, they should be removed or isolated from key leadership roles because of the high cost and long-term damage they can create. However, this is easier said than done because Diminishers who have finagled their way into top leadership roles are smart and intimidating. To learn if you are an Accidental Diminisher, go to their website and answer a simple 10-question quiz: http://multipliersbook.com/accidental-diminisher/

Once you identify possible Diminisher characteristics that you might exhibit as a leader, you can begin to change and develop more Multiplier qualities that will bring out the best in your people. This is not only beneficial in the workplace, but will also help improve your personal and family relationships. A simple shift in your leadership style will significantly impact the productivity and performance of your organization without adding any more expense. That's something every organization can use at this time.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fourteen months and counting

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

We were invited to speak to a small church group last Sunday. It was a group of Asian contract workers, non-professionals, most of whom had lived in the CNMI for at least 10 years, many for longer. We tried to explain to them that their options for continuing to remain and work in the CNMI were limited. We tried to convey our sense of urgency that they make contingency plans about their future now rather than later. We've made this sort of immigration presentation many times. This time, we think we failed, miserably.

So, we have spent the last few days ruminating about why people, who specifically invited us to speak to them about immigration issues, would be so resistant to hearing what we had to say. Here are some of the reasons we have come up with:

1 No one wants to hear bad news. In American culture, speaking plainly and directly is a virtue. This probably goes back to the American frontier culture's disdain of the fancy language and manners of city folk and of the Old World. The immigrants who created America wanted to get away from all that. In many Asian cultures, however, speaking plainly and directly is considered rude and disrespectful. We are told that in traditional Japan, for example, neither a patient nor his family was ever told that the patient is dying. Bad news is shrouded in evasive language so as to spare the feelings the recipient.

2 Culture of optimism. Cultures, like individuals, develop different emotional responses to stress. Americans tend to have a "can do" attitude and assume that all problems have a solution. Europeans often have a cynical attitude that anticipates possible failure and always keeps a contingency plan or two handy. Filipinos, to use as an example the CNMI's largest expatriate group, seem to have a culture of optimism, a deep-seated faith that things will work out for the best despite rational evidence to the contrary. All of these cultural attitudes are coping mechanisms that have proven their value over time.

3 Passivity. Many contract workers we encounter are heirs to many hundreds of years of political and economic oppression. Their only safety net has always been the extended family where decisions are made by elders, for the benefit of the group, rather than for the individual. The notion of acting proactively, as an individual, to determine one's own fate, is often unfamiliar, uncomfortable and frightening. The options currently available to contract workers involve risks due to the unsettled circumstances of the transition program. It is often easier to just wait and see what happens and then react.

Of course, we are very aware of the dangers of relying on generalizations and stereotypes. We have had any number of feisty, assertive and determined immigration clients from all of the cultures and ethnic groups present in the CNMI. But we have too often found ourselves telling reluctant listeners to be realistic and to stop waiting for relief based on benevolent government recognition of their situation, and to work out plans to resolve their problems—in short, to act now to plan the best possible solutions to their problems, whether present or anticipated.

So given all of the above, what advice can we offer? Well, it's kind of like the Boy Scout's motto: "Be prepared." And the only way that you can be prepared is to understand the situation and keep up with the changes.

Umbrella Permits

The Umbrella Permit Program was instituted by the CNMI government shortly before federalization. The purpose was to take advantage of a provision of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, or CNRA, the federalization statute that mandates that CNMI issued entry permits be recognized by USCIS as lawful presence in the CNMI for the duration of the permit or for two years after Nov. 28, 2009, whichever is shorter. USCIS considers that the umbrella permit program extended every umbrella holder's status to the full two years.

There is an ongoing disagreement between the federal and the CNMI government with respect to umbrella permits. The position of the federal government is that the status and employment of foreigners in the CNMI is purely a matter of federal law. The CNMI had the authority to issue umbrella permits prior to Nov. 28, 2009. Once the permit was issued, however, the CNMI lost the authority to change or revoke the permit because that authority ended on Nov. 28. Umbrella permit holders are deemed authorized to remain in and work in the CNMI, for any available employer, until Nov. 27, 2011.

The CNMI government takes the position that control of foreign labor is a shared responsibility with the federal government. The CNMI asserts that it can revoke umbrella permits if the conditions under which it was issued are violated. This includes reporting back on a certain date, and generally complying with CNMI labor laws, as expressed in the new P.L. 17-1. This means that aliens must register, must enter into a DOL approved contract of employment, and that their employers must comply with JVA, local content and local preference, and other hiring requirements.

The umbrella permit program, despite the uncertainty of interpretation, has been very helpful as evidence and extension of status for a very large number of foreign residents in the CNMI. It has helped to stabilize a very unstable situation, for a limited time. However, the clock is ticking, and, unless extended, all umbrella permits will expire on Nov. 27, 2011, roughly 14 months from now.

Transitional Worker Program or CW status

Ten months after federalization, we are still waiting for the regulations that will govern the terms and conditions of the Transitional Worker Program. The Transitional Worker Program is mandated by the CNRA, which was signed by President Bush on May 9, 2008 and became effective in the CNMI on Nov. 28, 2009. The stated purpose of this program was to allow for an orderly and gradual transition of the foreign work force to the full application of U.S. immigration law. According to proposed regulations that were published first on Oct. 27, 2009, and again on Dec. 9, 2009, the program would be implemented by the creation of a CNMI only non-immigrant classification: CW1 for workers and CW2 for their dependents. The new classification will be available to an alien worker who is currently ineligible for another non-immigrant or immigrant status and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI. Most foreign workers will not qualify for other employment-based U.S. visa categories, and most are not eligible for family-based green cards. Therefore the vast majority of workers, if they are to remain to work in the Commonwealth after November 2011, are awaiting the availability of this status. Final regulations have not been published, and now we are told that this status is not likely to be available before January 2011. If final regulations are published in January, that will leave a mere 11 months for workers to apply, and for USCIS to process their applications. At the very least this will lead to a logjam, worse than the one we experienced with the umbrella permits because, under the proposed regulations, processing CW applications will be a much more complicated process than issuing umbrella permits. It will take longer per permit and USCIS has far fewer employees on Saipan than CNMI DOL had last November. Anticipate long lines, long waits, and the prospect of many people left out in the cold when the window of opportunity closes.

Persons in illegal status

We have met many people who either didn't get an umbrella permit because they didn't think they needed one, or else they couldn't get one because they were already out of status prior to Nov. 28, 2009.

For the first category, people who were in legal status on and after takeover day but didn't get an umbrella, there is good news. Simply go down to DOL and ask for a "CNMI Alien Status Update Request" and fill it out. There is no fee and DOL will extend your status provided (1) your contract/permit has not yet expired and (2) your employer is willing to renew you. If your contract/permit is already expired and you have no umbrella, we suggest you make plans to return to your country. Alternatively, we understand that the Ombudsman's Office is applying for In-place Parole for people in your situation. If that effort is successful, you may be able to obtain temporary status until such time that CW becomes available.

If you are in the second category, that is, ineligible for an umbrella permit because you were already out of status prior to Nov. 28, 2009, we advise that you leave as soon as possible. We have written about "bad time" before. Bad time is unlawful presence in the U.S. that will be counted against you if you ever try to re-enter the U.S. Less than six months of bad time is usually forgiven; one year of bad time will keep you out for three years; and more than one year of bad time will keep you out for 10 years. This means, for example, that even if you become eligible for a green card because you marry an American citizen, you will not be allowed to enter the U.S. for three or 10 years, depending on how much bad time you had accumulated. Bad time in the CNMI commenced on Nov. 28, 2009. So anyone who was unlawfully present on that date has already accumulated more than six months (3-year bar) but less than one year (10-year bar) of bad time. If you are in this category, please return home voluntarily before the 10-year bar kicks in. Otherwise, sooner or later you will be deported. The federal government and the CNMI have been negotiating over detention facilities for over a year now. We understand that the intention of the federal government is to jail all persons awaiting deportation, as is done routinely throughout the United States. This would be a good thing to avoid.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

In your master's voice

When there's no good reason not to
and you feel like choosing not
It's the opposing team of failure
trying hard to block your shot

When you lose the fire of forward
and choose to stay in bed and sleep
You'll be sure it's the clutch of "never will"
that's grasping at your feet

The familiar face of failure
visits often as a friend
It's up to you to send it off
and choose victory in the end

So how to tell, how best to see
the habits that keep you back?
It's your thoughts from others' views of you
that's keeping you in lack

So ask the stars what road to take
what move to make your choice
Your guide toward the prize you seek
speaks in your master's voice

Commentary

The Master's Voice is about our "failure mechanism." Our failure mechanism is what keeps us doing the things that will guarantee our failure. Even though we all say that we want success, our fear of success, and our desire to stay within a familiar comfort zone are the real deciding factors in our everyday decisions.

We all hear voices that guide us throughout the day. We all have a familiar guide which consults us when any opportunity or decision presents itself. This guide often speaks to us in the voice of our fears, the voice of our self-perceptions, the voice of our beliefs and our expectations.

It is what will always keep us on the outside of our dreams looking in.

Your "master" is that belief or perception which has the greatest influence over you. If your master is fear, doubt and low expectations, then that is the voice you will hear. If your master is prosperity, self-love and faith, then that is the voice you will hear. Find and choose your master and then listen well!

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Jamaican on Saipan*, may order a copy on jamaicanonsaipan.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

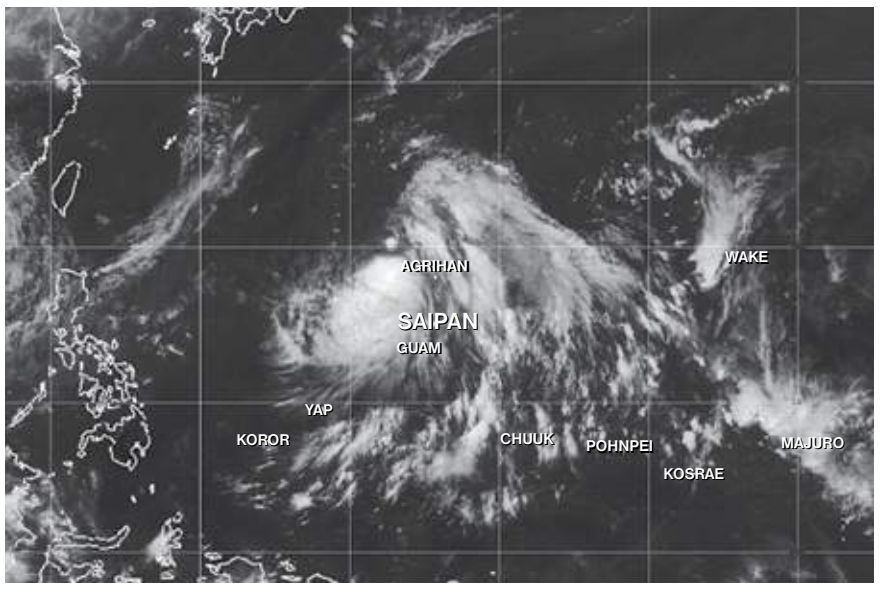
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲91	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲66	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼68
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲75	▼63
Paris	Showers	▲63	▼53
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼66
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼64
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼59
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Malakas (13W) is centered west-northwest of Agrihan near 20N142E and is moving west-northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are found west of the Marianas within 200 miles of 16N142E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers on the eastern edge of Malakas in an area bounded by 25N145E to 21N143E to 12N150E to 18N158E back to 25N145E. For further information on Tropical Storm Malakas (13W), refer to JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and National Weather Service public advisories under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. Scattered showers are developing east of an upper low centered north of Wake Island near 24N160E within 60 miles of a line extending from 18N163E to 23N166E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and thunderstorms between Koror and Chuuk in an area bounded by 10N140E to 3N132E to 3N152E to 9N156E back to 10N140E and across Kwajalein and Majuro in an area bounded by 10N164E to 3N173E to 6N180 to 11N171E back to 10N164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:55 PM	5:41 AM
Friday	6:31 PM	6:27 AM
Saturday	7:09 PM	7:15 AM
Sunday	7:49 PM	8:05 AM
Monday	8:34 PM	8:56 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

OPINION

Net Neutrality absolutely vital to assuring progressive free speech

By MARK WEISBROT
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

The mass media remains one of the most powerful forces blocking social and economic progress in the 21st century.

It is because of the mass media that tens of millions of Americans are convinced that budget deficits are more important than the lives ruined by unemployment, or that Social Security won't be there for them when they retire. Or that their government's occupation of Afghanistan and its hundreds of military bases around the world, are protecting the "national security" of U.S. citizens.

All of these destructive myths—and many more—could be dispelled within a relatively short time if there were a free marketplace of ideas, instead of the "free press for those who own it" model currently in place.

Of course, other falsehoods would persist for much longer; ideas, once widely accepted, can have great inertia. But during the last two decades the Internet has introduced a degree of competition in the world of mass communications, which although still quantitatively small, is nonetheless unprecedented.

An interactive process has been set in motion with the Internet and the blogosphere acting as a check on the mass media—sometimes breaking important news that would otherwise go unnoticed or unreported in systems with direct censorship such as China and also in limited democracies like the United States; and sometimes influencing the journalists who produce the mass media.

This process has the potential for accelerating with the development and spread of Internet technology, for example to Internet television; and of course with advances in literacy and education.

This is rare in the history of technology, and especially in the technology of communications. Almost all prior innovations—radio, television and motion pictures—have mostly made it easier for the few to control the many—like pilotless drone military planes.

This progressive contribution of the Internet is reliant on the principle of "net neutrality": that Internet service providers treat all packets of data the same. An individual blogger's challenge to The Washington Post can be downloaded by anyone at the same speed as the content of the multi-billion dollar corporate newspaper itself. Intelligent readers can decide for themselves who is correct.

The Federal Communications Commission has been considering what its role and rules should be for enforcing net neutrality, and in early August Google and Verizon put forth their own proposal on these issues.

These two big corporations, along with others, are likely to have a considerable influence on the FCC and Congress, and their proposal has elicited a torrent of criticism. It exempts wireless and other "online services" from net neutrality, and has other big loopholes.

There is now a clear and present danger that the road will be paved to a fragmented Internet where service providers can determine what people will see on the Web, and carve out a "non-neutral" sector. As Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., has noted, defending net neutrality is "the First Amendment issue of our time."

America's great concentrations of wealth—more concentrated than at any time since the 1920s—already dominate the Internet. But not nearly as much as they dominate the vast majority of information that Americans receive from more monopolized info-tainment news outlets such as TV, radio and what remains of the newspaper industry.

A coalition of organizations including MoveOn.org, Color of Change, Free Press and Credo Action is calling on Americans to lend a hand and preserve this one remaining mass medium of free speech and equal rights, before it is remade in accordance with corporate needs. We the people need the Internet as we know it is the essential tool in ongoing battle of ideas.

It is time to fight for it.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Readers may write to him at CEPR, 1611 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20009-1052; Web site: www.cepr.net. For information about CPR's funding, go to http://www.cepr.net/pages/Our—Funders.htm.

THE HUMANIZING

From Page 10

their child "laughter"?

For some, the faith of the fathers (and mothers) began in laughter. Sarah's handmaiden Hagar was given to Abraham (take that, moralistic Puritans!) to bed for an heir. Ishmael was born 15 years before Isaac. Here's the third laugh. The scion of the family (who is also a patriarch of Islam) and firstborn Ishmael was banished, just after doting Abraham finished teaching him how to play tennis! Isaac assume heirdom. Then the joker got wild. Abraham was told 16 years later to take the lad up the hills, lay him on a pile of sticks, slit his throat and make a burnt sacrifice to *El.* Abrams complied with a heavy heart, but guess what? Rabbinical tradition insists that Isaac kept smiling and laughing throughout the ordeal. Thanks to a wandering ram, and a quick shift in sacrificial offering mode, Isaac was spared the smoke to become a patriarch of many people!

Meanwhile, the Hindu Brahmins in South Asia could not hang on to their privileged position in the *Jati* system of India; the Jains promoted non-violence, the Buddha internal serenity, and the Sikhs monotheism. But it was the Moslem Mongol hordes that crashed the party in the Ganges and drew a political line that sent the Indus to Moslem Pakistan and India retaining the Taj Mahal of Agra and Mother Teresa in Calcutta in the aftermath of the decline of the British Empire. Gautama's monks headed south to the Malacca and north to Manchuria, while the merchants of Mecca sailed all the way to Zamboanga.

The Tao of China welcomed a laughing Buddha, and the Zens of Japan would find serenity in just the natural order of things, animate and inanimate. Underneath all these is every religion's ability to laugh, particularly its ability to laugh at itself.

The politics of oil became the altar of the American Empire (will keep harping on this) but the jokes are too painful to make, although here lies the measure in the cost of a Humvee, and the price to fly over to Tinian. We lost the ability to giggle save when we hear the laughter of Dr. Lao, but he is too enigmatic, and besides, he is a strange Chinese! Get a laughing Buddha at the $1 store if the laughing Jesus poster is too sacrilegious for you!

It is a political year. The entertainment tableau is full, mostly by accident. The hubris might stink but the humanity is genuine. It is time to learn to laugh again.

Business

Twitter hack opens popups, causes havoc

NEW YORK (AP)—A new way to cause mischief quickly spread through short-messaging service Twitter on Tuesday morning before the site could fix the problem, as mysterious "tweets" of blocked-out text propagated themselves and caused popup windows to open.

Shortly before 10 a.m. Eastern time, (1400 GMT), Twitter said on its "safety" feed on the site that the attack had been shut down. It also said it does not believe that any user information was compromised, rather, the "vast majority" of the breaches were pranks or promotions.

The hack had been extra nefarious because the tweets activated without being clicked on—it was enough for Web surfers to move their mouse cursors over them. But it only affected visitors to Twitter.com. Various third-party programs used to send and read tweets, such as Tweetdeck, were unaffected.

The popups could, though didn't necessarily, contain malicious code that could take over poorly protected computers. The White House's official Twitter feed—followed by 1.8 million users—was among those affected, though the offending message was quickly taken down.

Fittingly for Twitter, which limits messages to just 140 characters, the virus may have been among the shortest on record. According to security software maker F-Secure Corp., the shortest virus so far was just 22 characters long.

Twitter said in a blog post it was notified of the security breach at 5:54 a.m. Eastern time. The problem was caused by something called "cross-site scripting." This allowed users to run JavaScript programs on others' computers, turning tweets different colors or causing the pop-up boxes to appear. Some users, Twitter added, took things a step further and included code that got people's accounts to re-tweet the messages without their knowledge.

"It was like a massive snowball fight that got out of control," said Ray Dickenson, chief technology officer at computer security firm SafeCentral.

But while the effects of Tuesday's mischief were very visible—such as the pop-ups—and playful, Dickenson said that he was worried because JavaScript can quietly do more malicious things, like sending people to sites that can infect computers.

AP

Associated Press movie critic Christy Lemire works on her Twitter page at her computer at the Associated Press bureau in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010.

Top economic adviser to leave White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's top economic adviser, Lawrence Summers, plans to leave the White House at the end of the year, a move that comes as the administration struggles to show an anxious public it's making progress on the economy.

While administration officials Tuesday quickly sought to paint the announcement as an expected development, Summers' departure shakes up an economic team that has been under fire for its handling of the recovery. It's also a team already in transition following the recent departures of other high-profile Obama advisers.

Summers

In a statement, the president said he is grateful for Summers' service during a time of "great peril for our country."

"While we have much work ahead to repair the damage done by the recession, we are on a better path thanks in no small measure to Larry's wise counsel," Obama said.

Summers will return to Harvard University, a move a senior administration official said was always part of Summers' long-standing plans. The official said the president asked Summers last fall to stay through 2010 in order to see through the passage of financial regulatory legislation and the continued implementation of the economic stimulus package. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal White House matters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed moves closer to new action to help economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve, meeting for the last time before an election that hinges on the weak economy, edged closer Tuesday to jumping in to help and suggested it's more worried about prices falling than rising. The central bank gathered as new figures showed some improvement in home construction. But those same figures showed the pace of building would have to double to contribute much to job growth, underscoring the dire state of the housing market. The Fed announced no new steps. It signaled that for now it will stand back and see whether the economy can heal on its own.

Asian stocks post modest gains after Fed meeting

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets posted modest gains in holiday-thinned trade Wednesday after the Federal Reserve indicated it is ready to do more to help the U.S. economy but stopped short of announcing specific measures. The Fed said it is concerned that inflation is below levels consistent with a healthy economy and indicated that it is ready to provide "additional accommodation" to support the recovery. That would mean more purchases of Treasurys or other kinds of debt, which would keep interest rates low and hopefully encourage borrowing. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average was flat at 9,605.51 as the yen strengthened.

Bedbug experts bring samples to Chicago-area hotel

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP)—While most businesses recoil at the mere thought of bedbugs, one suburban Chicago hotel is welcoming the bloodsucking pests—at least this week. Experts are gathering at the Hyatt Rosemont to talk about the pests that are running rampant in the Northeast. Jeff White, an entomologist, or bug expert, in Trenton, N.J., said it's a serious issue and people need to know how to spot bedbugs. Over the weekend, he packed up a jar of them and sent them on a car ride to Rosemont, where they are on display at the 2010 North American Bed Bug Summit.

Nation

Republicans block bill to lift military gay ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans on Tuesday blocked an effort by Democrats and the White House to lift the ban on gays from serving openly in the military, voting unanimously against advancing a major defense policy bill that included the provision.

The mostly partisan vote dealt a major blow to gay rights groups who saw the legislation as their best hope, at least in the short term, for repeal of the 17-year-old law known as "don't ask, don't tell."

If Democrats lose seats in the upcoming congressional elections this fall, as many expect, repealing the ban could prove even more difficult—if not impossible—next year. With that scenario looming, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said that a lame-duck session was being planned and that lifting the ban would be taken up then.

The episode upset advocates who believe that neither President Barack Obama nor Reid did enough to see the measure through.

"The whole thing is a political train wreck," said Richard Socarides, a White House adviser on gay rights during the Clinton administration.

AP

Former U.S. Marine Morningstar Vancil, right, is hugged by Robert C. Potter after speaking with a news reporter at the Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post 448 office in San Francisco, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010. According to its website, the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 is the only post whose membership is predominantly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered.

Democrats included the repeal provision in a $726 billion defense policy bill, which authorizes a pay raise for the troops among other popular programs. In a deal brokered with the White House, the measure would have overturned the 1993 law banning openly gay service only after a Pentagon review and certification from the president that lifting the ban wouldn't hurt troop morale.

But with little time left for debate before the November ballot, the bill languished on the Senate calendar until gay rights groups, backed by pop star Lady Gaga, began an aggressive push to turn it into an election issue.

Earlier this month a federal judge in Los Angeles declared the ban an unconstitutional violation of the due process and free speech rights of gays and lesbians. The decision was the third federal court ruling since July to assert that statutory limits on the rights of gays and lesbians were unconstitutional.

Reid agreed to force a vote on the bill this week and limit debate, despite Republican objections. A Nevada Democrat in a tight race of his own this fall, he also pledged to use the defense bill as a vehicle for an immigration proposal that would enable young people to qualify for U.S. citizenship if they joined the military.

Republicans alleged that Reid was using the defense bill to score political points with the Democratic base.

"This is not a serious exercise. It's a show," said Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Democrats countered that the bill merely reflects public opinion. Recent polls suggest that a majority of Americans think the ban on gays in the military should be overturned.

"We're going to fight for this," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

But at least for now, the question of how and when to change the policy returns to the Pentagon, which had set a December deadline to complete a study of the effects of lifting the ban. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that he supports Obama's goal of repeal, but Gates made it clear he thought the process should move gradually.

Study: Teacher bonuses fail to boost test scores

By DORIE TURNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Offering big bonuses to teachers failed to raise students' test scores in a three-year study released Tuesday that calls into question the Obama administration's push for merit pay to improve education.

The study, conducted in the metropolitan Nashville school system by Vanderbilt University's National Center on Performance Incentives, was described by the researchers as the nation's first scientifically rigorous look at merit pay for teachers.

It found that students whose teachers were offered bonuses of up to $15,000 a year for improved test scores registered the same gains on standardized exams as those whose teachers were given no such incentives.

"I think most people agree today that the current way in which we compensate teachers is broken," said Matthew Springer, executive director of the Vanderbilt center and lead researcher on the study. "But we don't know what the better way is yet."

The study comes as the Obama administration encourages school systems to link teacher pay and tenure to how students perform on tests and other measures of achievement.

The researchers looked at fifth- through eighth-grade math teachers from 2007 to 2009. A group of about 300 teachers started out in the study; half were eligible for the bonuses, the other half were not.

The bonuses were given out based on improvements in scores on Tennessee's standardized exam, which is used by the state as part of the federal No Child Left Behind requirements.

Springer was quick to point out that his study looked only at individual bonuses, not extra pay doled out to teams of teachers or an entire school. He said more research is needed.

Lawsuit claims Bishop Long coerced males into sex

ATLANTA (AP)—Two men have filed a lawsuit accusing Bishop Eddie Long of exploiting his role as pastor of an Atlanta-area megachurch to coerce them into sexual relationships when they were young members of his congregation.

Lawyers for the men, now 20 and 21, say they filed the lawsuit on Tuesday in DeKalb County Court. The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they were victims of sexual impropriety.

Craig Gillen, Long's attorney, said Tuesday the pastor "categorically denies the allegations."

"We find it unfortunate that these two young men would take this course of action," Gillen said, adding that Long had not yet been served with copies of the lawsuits.

The men were 17- and 18-year-old members of Long's New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, when they say Long abused his spiritual authority to seduce them with with cars, money, clothes, jewelry, international trips and access to celebrities.

B.J. Bernstein, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said that when the relationships started, the plaintiffs were past the legal age of consent in Georgia, which is 15.

"Defendant Long has utilized his spiritual authority to coerce certain young male members ... into engaging in sexual acts and relationships for his own personal sexual grafitication," the lawsuits read.

When asked about a possible motive for the accusations, Gillen referred to a break-in at Long's office in June.

Bergstein said one of the plaintiffs is facing a criminal burglary charge in the incident. She said the break-in was a way of lashing out at Long.

Bernstein said she contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office earlier this month when she became aware of the young men's allegations. She did not know what action, if any, the agency planned to take.

New tea party: energy, money and detente with GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tea party activists and the Republican establishment are quickly joining forces for the fall elections as fresh cash and energy flow to the upstarts.

Separate tea party groups still squabble over roles for Republican insiders within the movement, but the conservative activists and GOP stalwarts have reached a truce for the common goal of defeating Democrats, heeding calls for unity from Republicans including Sarah Palin.

One group—the nonprofit Tea Party Patriots—on Tuesday announced a $1 million donation from an anonymous donor, a shot of cash to be spent before the election on voter mobilization efforts. The Tea Party Express is preparing to assist specific candidates, building on its targeted advertising campaigns during primary races in Delaware, Alaska and Nevada.

Meanwhile, the Republican Party and GOP-allied outside groups are already helping some tea party-backed candidates, most notably Sharron Angle who is seeking to unseat Senate Majority leader Harry Reid in Nevada.

"Ultimately, that's what we all hope happens, as citizens," said Tea Party Patriots cofounder Mark Meckler. "The political parties support the candidates that the people support, not the other way around."

It's hardly unusual for opposing forces to coalesce after primaries to confront the opposition party. But the vigor with which tea party activists went after longtime Republican office holders—such as Sen. Robert Bennett in Utah and Rep. Mike Castle in Delaware—had raised the prospects of a rift that would be difficult to heal.

But Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the head of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, was offering plenty of salve Tuesday.

"I think the tea party's been a very constructive movement in American politics," he said. "People are tired of everything thrown at them from Washington, and they are not going to take it anymore. We have embraced their enthusiasm and their energy in the Republican primaries and now we're strongly behind all the Republican nominees, including a number of candidates who are very actively supported by the tea party movement."

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-city manager among 8 arrested in Calif. scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The mayor and former city manager of Bell were led away in handcuffs Tuesday, charged with six other officials with taking more than $5.5 million from the working-class suburb in a scandal that triggered nationwide outrage and calls for more transparency in government. Former City Manager Robert Rizzo, Mayor Oscar Hernandez and the other current and former city officials were rounded up during morning raids on their homes that prompted many of their neighbors to burst into cheers. They were charged with dozens of counts of illegally paying themselves huge salaries in what District Attorney Steve Cooley called a case of "corruption on steroids."

Man pleads guilty to murder in NJ school killings

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A suspect in the execution-style killings of three college students in a New Jersey schoolyard in 2007 pleaded guilty Tuesday, days before his trial was set to begin. Melvin Jovel, 21, pleaded guilty to three counts of murder, one count of attempted murder and weapons charges in the Newark attacks. Prosecutors said Jovel and five other young men lined up Iofemi Hightower and Dashon Harvey, both 20, and 18-year-old Terrance Aeriel, against a schoolyard wall and shot each of them in the back of the head.

Police: Indiana kids died after 10 hours in closet

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A woman charged in the deaths of two of her children allegedly locked them and three siblings inside a small closet and left to visit a friend, returning about 10 hours later to find the boy and girl dead inside. An Indianapolis police report released Tuesday said Edyan Farah, 28, told officers she "was not in her right mind" when she allegedly put her five children in an upstairs closet about 6 a.m. Sunday and placed a large bed in front of the door so they couldn't get out. Police said the closet was about 6 feet long and 18 inches deep.

Asia

Hong Kongers criticize RP hostage report

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong residents on Tuesday criticized as incomplete a scathing report from the Philippine government detailing the mishandling of a bus hijacking in which eight tourists from the southern Chinese territory died.

The report—which said leaders communicated poorly with the hostage-taker, a fired policeman, and called police inadequately trained—came as Philippine President Benigno Aquino III tried to repair ties with China, where the attack sparked outrage.

The report, released Monday, also recommended charges, both criminal and administrative, be brought against Manila's mayor, a recently retired police chief and others. Aquino said he would decide whether to approve filing of charges after taking advice from government lawyers.

It singled out Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Manila Police Chief Rodolfo Magtibay, who left for a nearby restaurant shortly before gunman Rolando Mendoza started shooting at hostages.

It accused Magtibay of "gross insubordination" for defying presidential orders to use an elite commando unit instead of a local SWAT team that struggled to storm the bus after shots were heard.

Lim's approach of trying to wait out the situation was "made with utter disregard of any experience and training in hostage-taking incidents," the report said.

Both the Chinese and Hong Kong governments praised the 83-page report as a serious one, but there is still lingering suspicion among the Hong Kong public.

Hong Kong legislator Ronny Tong said the report's biggest flaw was its inability to rule out that friendly fire had killed some of the tourists. The report said while available evidence supports the conclusion that Mendoza killed all eight Hong Kong citizens, this needed to be confirmed by ballistic testing. Philippine officials have previously said police bullets may have hit some of the victims.

Tong told The Associated Press while the findings of official wrongdoing help pave the way for victims to seek financial damages, "the report has not achieved the goal of uncovering the truth."

Survivor Li Yick-biu, who was among an early batch of hostages released by Mendoza, complained the report didn't explain how another badly wounded hostage was hurt, the South China Morning Post reported on Tuesday.

Youngster Jason Leung remains in a coma from a serious head injury. The Leung family, Hong Kong natives who hold Canadian passports, have become an emotional focal point in the aftermath of the tragedy. Mother Amy Ng is the only member who escaped unscathed. Her husband and two other children were killed.

"The tragedy reflects the serious corruption in the Philippines, in government and police," Li was quoted as saying.

Hong Kong's *Apple Daily* said in a front-page headline the report "has not done justice to the victims."

AP

Hong Kong citizens stick protest signs around the seal at the local Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010, alleging the Philippine government mishandling a bus hijacking last month that ended with the gunman killing eight Hong Kong tourists.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon flooding kills 13 in China, dozens missing

BEIJING (AP)—Flooding and landslides from Typhoon Fanapi killed 13 people in southern China and left at least 33 missing, an official said Wednesday, as the strongest storm to hit the country this year continued to drop heavy rain on parts of the region. The typhoon hit Guangdong province after making a direct hit on the island of Taiwan on Sunday and killing two there. China's national meteorological center said Fanapi is the strongest typhoon to hit China this year. It forecast heavy or torrential rains for parts of central and western parts of Guangdong through Thursday morning. An official with Guangdong's flood, drought and wind control department said 13 were killed in landslides and flooding.

Afghanistan helicopter crash kills 9 NATO troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A helicopter carrying international troops crashed in a rugged section of southern Afghanistan, killing nine service members in the deadliest such incident in four years for coalition forces. A "large number" of Americans were among the dead, according to a senior military official in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. One other coalition service member, an Afghan National Army soldier and a U.S. civilian were wounded in Tuesday's crash.

Van carrying 30 kids plunges into Pakistan river

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A van carrying at least 30 schoolchildren plunged into a river in Pakistan-held Kashmir on Tuesday, and most of the passengers were confirmed or feared dead. The driver lost control of the vehicle and it plunged 50 feet (15 meters) into the Jhelum River from an elevated road in the regional capital Muzaffarabad, said local police chief Ghulam Akber. Authorities managed to save the driver and four children, he said. But school teacher Bashir Mughal said rescue workers took more than an hour to arrive and it was local villagers who plucked the four children from the water. Fifteen bodies have been recovered from various parts of the river, but the other children are still missing, Akber said. Some bodies may have been collected by local residents before authorities arrived, he said.

Commonwealth Games at risk with under 2 weeks left

NEW DELHI (AP)—Less than two weeks before it begins, one of the world's biggest sports events is in jeopardy as organizers struggle to cope with unfinished buildings, a filthy athletes' village called "unfit for human habitation," a bridge collapse, concerns over security and corruption, and an outbreak of dengue fever.

The Commonwealth Games, which bring together more than 7,000 athletes from the 71 countries and territories every four years, was supposed to showcase the emerging power of India—just as the 2008 Beijing Olympics did for China.

Instead, the Oct. 3-14 games in New Delhi are highlighting the problems in the developing nation of more than 1 billion people that is still plagued by vast areas of poverty.

The frenzied, last-minute preparations are in such disarray that some officials are speculating that a few teams could withdraw or the event could be called off.

The latest blow came Tuesday, with the collapse of a footbridge being built to connect the main stadium to a parking lot. Police said 23 construction workers were injured, five seriously.

Hours earlier, the Commonwealth Games Federation urged the Indian government to finish work on the athletes' village, which is due to open Thursday. In addition to shoddy conditions inside and outside the buildings, there also are problems with plumbing, wiring, furnishings, Internet access and cell phone coverage.

"We have to continue to push our concerns at the highest level and you can't get higher than the Cabinet office of the country and the prime minister," Commonwealth Games Federation chief executive Mike Hooper told The Associated Press. "They have to come up with a clear plan to meet the needs of athletes and show they can provide consistent standards."

The games have historically been dominated by England, Australia and Canada, and all three have voiced concerns about the conditions in India.

"It's hard to cancel an event of this magnitude, but we are close to the wire, and teams may start to take things into their own hands," England chef de mission Craig Hunter told Britain's Press Association. "Athletes will start getting on planes soon and decisions will have to be made. We need new levels of reassurance."

Australian discus world champion Dani Samuels withdrew from the games Tuesday, citing concerns over health and security, according to her manager, Hayden Knowles. England's Phillips Idowu also said he won't defend his triple jump title in New Delhi because of fears for his safety. He explained on Twitter that he has children, and "my safety is more important to them than a medal."

AP

Indian workers stand at the scene of bridge collapse near Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010.

China premier threatens Japan over boat dispute

BEIJING (AP)—China's premier has threatened Japan for the first time in a growing fight over disputed islands, saying his country will take "further actions" if Japan does not immediately release a ship captain whose detention has splintered relations between the Asia powers.

Wen Jiabao's comments Tuesday night in New York were the first by a top Chinese leader on the issue that has led Beijing to suspend ministerial-level contacts with Tokyo. China also has said Wen would not meet with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan during U.N. meetings in New York this week.

In comments carried on the website of China's Foreign Ministry, Wen laid the blame for the dispute entirely at Japan's door.

Wen

Tokyo "bears full responsibility for the situation, and it will bear all consequences," he said to a gathering of overseas Chinese.

China-Japan relations are at their worst in half a decade, after Japan arrested the Chinese captain of a fishing boat that collided two weeks ago with Japanese coast guard vessels near islands in the East China Sea claimed by both nations. Japan extended his detention Sunday, and China responded by suspending contacts.

Japan made a conciliatory gesture Wednesday morning, but it was not clear whether Japan knew of Wen's comments at the time.

"If possible, it would be good to quickly hold high-level talks, including broad, strategic discussions," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku told reporters, saying that the countries should continue to strengthen their ties despite the dispute.

The telephone at China's Foreign Ministry rang unanswered Wednesday, a national holiday in China.

On Tuesday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu explained that Wen would not be meeting Japan's Kan in New York because "The atmosphere is obviously not suitable for such a meeting."

Anti-Japanese protests have already flared in numerous locations around China, and the dispute has spilled into cultural ties. Beijing abruptly canceling invitations to 1,000 Japanese youth to the Shanghai expo and the Japanese pop group SMAP has called off a concert in Shanghai.

World

Chileans optimistic for early October miner rescue

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chilean rescuers are growing increasingly optimistic about pulling the 33 trapped miners out far sooner than originally estimated, and with drilling quickly advancing on three narrow escape chutes, they raced Tuesday to decide on a design for the capsule that will lift the men to safety.

President Sebastian Pinera has staked his presidency on being able to show the world that his government has safely rescued the miners ahead of schedule. He promised the men after they were found to be alive Aug. 22 that they would be home by Christmas—a timeframe mining experts called far too conservative—and then put hundreds of rescuers to work on three simultaneous drilling operations to reach them more quickly.

The engineer in charge of the rescue effort, Andre Sougarret, said Tuesday that "it's still premature to talk about shorter timeframes. We're sticking with the first days of November as the final date of the rescue."

But the rescue team's own numbers suggest faster progress. The biggest drill, labeled "Plan C," is capable of much faster speed, and the deeper it gets, the faster engineers plan to drill.

Barring unforeseen complications, it could break through to the miners at a point nearly 2,000 feet (597 meters) underground in the second week of October. Sougarret has said it would then take 8 days to insert an iron sleeve in the 28-inch-wide (71-centimeter-wide) chute to prevent rock falls while miners are being pulled out.

There's also the matter of an Oct. 15-22 European trip scheduled by Pinera, who promised the miners in a video chat Sunday that he would be there to hug them as they emerged.

While his ministers have struggled to manage expectations, Pinera could hardly contain himself when asked by reporters at the mine to commit to a date, saying with his usual broad smile that "it will be sooner than what you expect."

In another indication of the rescue effort's progress, Sougarret said the rescue capsule—named Phoenix for the mythical bird that burns to ashes, only to rise again and live for hundreds of years—has to be ready within 10 to 12 days after they decide on a final design this week.

With that in mind, engineers were viewing prototypes of the capsules Tuesday at ASMAR, the Chilean navy's shipbuilding operation in Talcahuano, where three of the capsules will be built to provide backups in case anything goes wrong.

The specifications are elaborate: The capsules must come equipped with tanks to provide three hours of oxygen, wheels mounted on shock absorbers to maintain contact with the pipe's walls, an internal harness to prevent injury to the miners, and a wireless communication system so the men can remain in touch with people inside and outside the mine during the 15- to 20-minute journey to the surface.

It also must fit through a chute just 23 inches (58.4 centimeters) in diameter, while also providing just enough room to squeeze inside for the largest man trapped below, a miner whose shoulders measure 19 inches (48 centimeters) across.

"That's the critical dimension for the cage's design," Sougarret said in a briefing Tuesday at the San Jose mine.

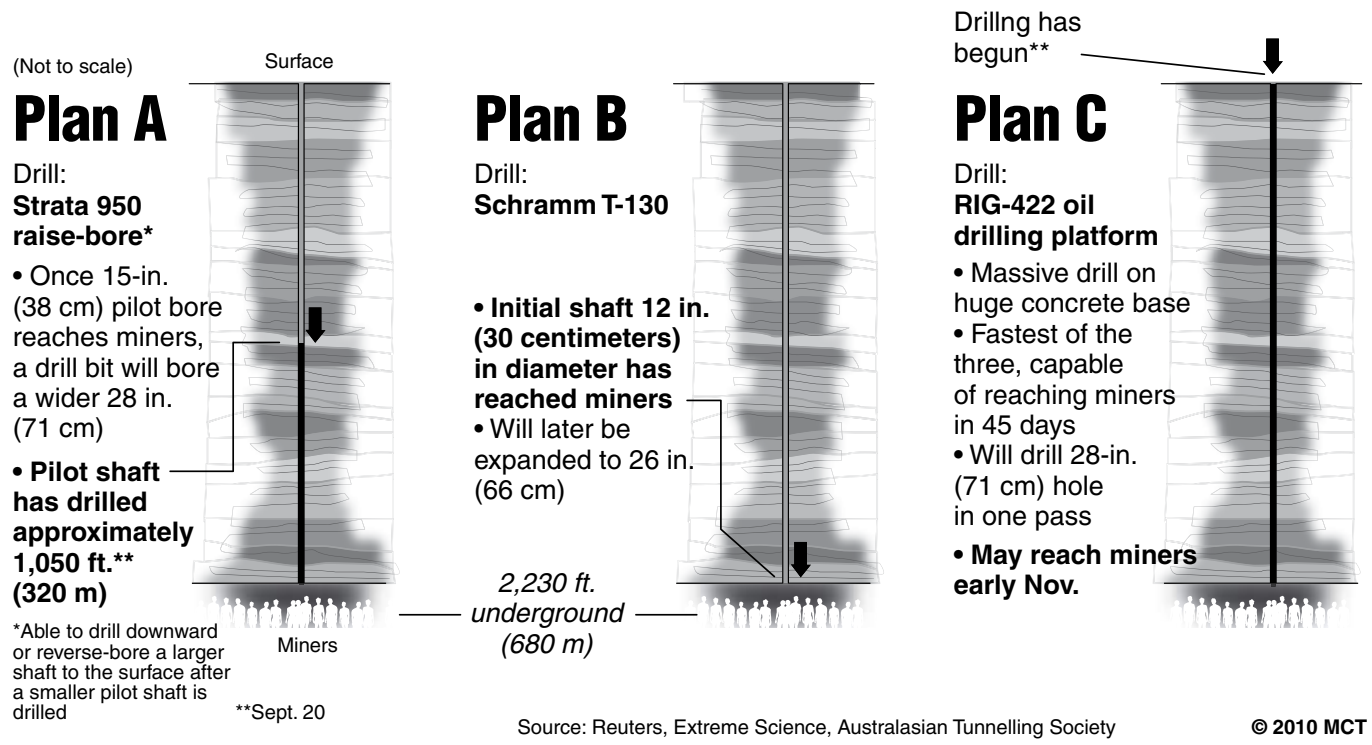
ASMAR plans a cylinder with walls of steel 0.16 inch (4 millimeters) thick, with an escape hatch and interior harness system designed to enable the occupant to lower himself back down into the mine should the capsule get stuck.

"Everything is advancing OK, the technical team ... is already at ASMAR evaluating the rescue capsule design. It has been baptized Phoenix. This week we will decide" its final characteristics, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said by Twitter on Tuesday.

The capsule designers have received some guidance from U.S. engineers involved in Pennsylvania's 2002 Quecreek coal mine disaster, said Tom Foy, one of nine men who were pulled to safety in an operation that has many similarities to the effort in Chile.

Three options for the 33

One or more of the three shafts being drilled to free the 33 Chilean miners trapped in a refuge area more than 2,000 ft. (610 m) underground may be completed as early as the first week of November.


(Not to scale)
Surface
Plan A
Drill:
Strata 950 raise-bore*
• Once 15-in. (38 cm) pilot bore reaches miners, a drill bit will bore a wider 28 in. (71 cm)
• Pilot shaft has drilled approximately 1,050 ft.** (320 m)
*Able to drill downward or reverse-bore a larger shaft to the surface after a smaller pilot shaft is drilled
Miners
**Sept. 20
Plan B
Drill:
Schramm T-130
• Initial shaft 12 in. (30 centimeters) in diameter has reached miners
• Will later be expanded to 26 in. (66 cm)
2,230 ft. underground (680 m)
Drillng has begun**
Plan C
Drill:
RIG-422 oil drilling platform
• Massive drill on huge concrete base
• Fastest of the three, capable of reaching miners in 45 days
• Will drill 28-in. (71 cm) hole in one pass
• May reach miners early Nov.

Source: Reuters, Extreme Science, Australasian Tunnelling Society

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Mideast peacemakers push Israel on settlements

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Quartet of Mideast peacemakers shepherding the newly started direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations called on Israel to extend its settlement freeze past Sunday, while cautioning both sides to refrain from "provocative actions and inflammatory rhetoric."

Senior diplomats from the Quartet—the U.S., the European Union, the United Nations and Russia—met on the sidelines of the United Nations anti-poverty meeting to discuss a way forward in the negotiations, which have made little visible progress since they resumed earlier this month and are at risk of collapse.

They renewed a vow to help finally achieve peace in the Middle East.

George Mitchell, the Obama administration's envoy for Middle East peace, met Tuesday with Israeli and Palestinian officials, including one three-way session with each side's top negotiators, according to U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley. But there was no sign that either side was ready to commit to a new round of direct talks.

In a statement issued after its meeting, the Quartet said that the "commendable Israeli settlement moratorium instituted last November has had a positive impact and urged its continuation." It encouraged both sides to continue negotiating "in a constructive manner and urged the international community to support their efforts."

Earlier, the Quartet abruptly canceled a press conference that was to have included Mitchell, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

A senior European official who declined to be identified said the meeting with the press was canceled because other participants were insisting on U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's presence among them. The senior official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of the negotiations.

UN anti-poverty goals get new financial pledges

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A three-day summit to push global leaders to meet U.N. goals to significantly reduce poverty by 2015 wraps up Wednesday with new financial pledges from countries but no certainty there will be enough money and political commitment to meet the targets.

With many countries under financial pressure from the effects of the global economic crisis as well as rising food and energy prices, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly urged governments not to abandon the 1 billion people living on less than $1.25 a day.

Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, in prepared remarks for delivery at the Millennium Development Goals summit Wednesday, urged other countries to show the same resolve as Britain in meeting their aid commitments, despite the fallout from the financial meltdown.

Clegg pointed to "fragile spaces—like Afghanistan—where hate can proliferate and terrorist attacks can be planned, where organized criminals can harvest the drugs that ravage our streets, where families are persecuted, displaced, pushed to seek refuge with us."

"So we do not see the Millennium Development Goals just as optimistic targets for far away lands," he said. "They are not simply charity, nor are they pure altruism. They are also the key to lasting safety and future prosperity for the people of the United Kingdom."

Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul told the leaders Tuesday that the lack of security in his home country has made it harder to achieve the anti-poverty goals, known as the MDGs.

"The enemies of peace and stability in Afghanistan are still active, orchestrating well-planned attacks against schools, clinics, teachers, doctors, government employees and even young children, particularly school girls," Rassoul said. "Unfortunately, similar attacks continue against humanitarian aid organizations and their personnel."

WORLD BRIEFS

Ahmadinejad blames capitalism for poverty

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's president on Tuesday predicted the defeat of capitalism and blamed global big business for the suffering of millions, but Germany's chancellor said market economies were key to lifting the world's least developed countries out of poverty. The clash of visions at the U.N. anti-poverty summit drew a line under the stark differences on easing the misery of the one billion people living on less than $1.25 a day. More than 140 presidents, prime ministers and kings are attending the three-day summit which started Monday to assess and spur on achievement of U.N. targets set by world leaders in 2000. The plan called for an intensive global campaign to ease poverty, disease and inequalities between rich and poor by 2015.

Mogadishu mayor aims to restore basics amid rubble

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Mogadishu's new mayor has paid his employees, gotten some of the garbage picked up and turned the lights on. In this city of rubble and bombed-out buildings, where gunfire erupts every few minutes, that counts as progress. Mayor Mohamed Nur is making an effort to provide basic services for one of the sorriest cities on Earth, a place where officials are much better known for lining their own pockets. Somalis battered by two decades of war have lost faith in the weak central government, which is beset by militias, corruption and infighting. The prime minister resigned Tuesday after a power struggle with the president.

Al-Qaida claims kidnapping of 5 French in Niger

PARIS (AP)—Al-Qaida's North Africa branch has claimed responsibility for kidnapping five French nationals near a uranium mine deep in the desert of the African nation of Niger, an audio message broadcast Tuesday said. In the recording broadcast by the Arabic news channel al-Jazeera, a voice claiming to represent al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb said the group would issue its demands to the French government shortly. "It was not a real surprise to learn that al-Qaida was at the origin" of the kidnapping, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner told journalists at the United Nations in New York. "Now that it's certain, we will continue—the French, their allies, Israel—to put every effort into obtaining their freedom."

Focus

In this photo taken on May 11, 2010, teacher Kazuyo Arai, background standing, and her class listen to a student speaking at Honmoku Elementary School in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. Alarmed that its children are falling behind those in rivals such as South Korea and Hong Kong, Japan is adding about 1,200 pages to elementary school textbooks, bringing the total to nearly 6,100.

AP PHOTO/KOJI SASAHARA

Japan fattens textbooks to reverse sliding rank

> There's a sense of crisis. With the year-by-year weakening of the competitiveness of our economy, there are serious concerns about whether our education system is working for a country with few natural resources, whose most valuable resources are its people.

By MALCOLM FOSTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

When Mio Honzawa starts fifth grade next April, her textbooks will be thicker.

Alarmed that its children are falling behind those in rivals such as South Korea and Hong Kong, Japan is adding about 1,200 pages to elementary school textbooks, bringing the total across all subjects for six years from 4,900 pages today to nearly 6,100.

In a move that has divided educators and experts, Japan is going back to basics after a 10-year experiment in "pressure-free education," which encouraged more application of knowledge and less rote memorization.

"I think it's a good move. Compared to the education I got, I'm kind of shocked at the level my children are receiving," said Keiko Honzawa, a Tokyo resident and mother of Mio and her seventh-grade brother.

Japan's near-the-top rank on international standardized tests has fallen, stunning this nation where education has long been a source of pride.

The textbook debate mirrors one in the U.S., where new Common Core State Standards for math and English adopted by 37 states aim to strike a balance between teaching content and how to use that knowledge in everyday life and unify different state requirements. In both countries, sliding scores on tests such as the Programme for International Student Assessment, or PISA, given every three years to 15-year-olds around the world, have helped drive changes in educational guidelines.

For Japan, the debate reflects a deeper anxiety as the country struggles to find direction in a world where its influence has waned. Its once-powerful—and now stagnant—economy has been overtaken by China's, and political leaders are grappling with how to deal with a bulging national deficit and an aging, shrinking population.

Signs that Japan's academic prowess is sliding have added to the consternation. Furthermore, the number of Japanese students studying abroad has fallen.

"There's a sense of crisis," said Hiroaki Mimizuka, a professor of education at Ochanomizu University in Tokyo, who thinks the new guidelines are a step in the right direction. "With the year-by-year weakening of the competitiveness of our economy, there are serious concerns about whether our education system is working for a country with few natural resources, whose most valuable resources are its people."

Others see the revisions as misguided and believe the emphasis on independent thinking needed more time to bear fruit.

"Just adding pages to textbooks and pushing for more memorization isn't going to get us anywhere," argued Koji Kato, professor emeritus of education at Sophia University in Tokyo. "Japan needs to invest in developing thinking people for its future."

Science and math textbooks will see the biggest additions, getting 60 percent more pages compared to earlier this decade. Among new concepts: Fifth-graders will learn how to calculate the area of a trapezoid and sixth-graders will learn about electricity.

An hour or two of school will be added each week, depending on the grade, and English will be introduced in fifth grade instead of seventh. Middle and high school students can expect similar changes in subsequent years.

Some fear this heralds a return to the "cram education" of the past that stressed memorization and was geared toward passing rigorous university entrance examinations. Though some colleges have introduced essay sections, they largely test ability to recall information, including finicky questions about English grammar that would baffle many native speakers.

Tens of thousands of children attend private "cram schools" in the afternoons to get an extra edge for these exams. Getting into the right university goes a long way toward determining one's job, income level and place in society—a system that many Japanese agree needs to change.

It was partly in reaction to criticism that the ministry of education about 10 years ago launched what popularly came to be called "pressure-free education." The aim was to boost students' skills in applying knowledge and expressing their own opinions, viewed as weaknesses in a system whose strengths have been in solving math problems and memorizing complicated "kanji" characters used in Japanese writing.

Curricular requirements were reduced, Saturday half-day classes were phased out, and teachers were told to take three hours each week to engage in learning driven by students' questions, such as "Why doesn't a sleeping bird fall from its perch on a branch?"

But ever since, Japan's PISA scores have fallen, setting off what the media here called "PISA shock."

Japan's rank in math in the test, conducted by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, dropped from first in 2000 to 10th in 2006, the most recent year for which results have been released. Science rankings slid from second to 6th, and reading comprehension declined from 8th to 15th.

The slide is puzzling because the exam is designed to test the ability to apply knowledge in real-life situations—one of the supposed goals of "pressure-free education."

Japan's performance in another test that does measure knowledge acquired in school, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, has been mixed. Middle school students' rank in math has slipped from 3rd in 1995 to 5th in 2007, while their rank in science, which fell from 3rd to 6th in 2003, improved to 3rd again in 2007.

The current system has been a "huge failure," said Eiichi Kajita, president of International Pacific University, who helped craft the new curriculum guidelines. Education has become too child-centered, he argued.

"Teachers were told students should be supported, not taught," Kajita said. "We need to revive a respect for knowledge. We also need more discipline."

Mutsuko Takahashi, vice president of the Japan Teachers' Union, says teachers didn't get enough training on how to carry out the program's goals—something education ministry officials acknowledge. For their part, education ministry officials say the new guidelines are meant to better balance teaching fundamentals with promoting creative, independent thinking.

"We cut too much," said Kihei Maekawa, deputy director-general at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. "We're trying to adjust the course now. But as for the goal of training children to think for themselves, that's unchanged."

Japan's educational performance is still the envy of many countries, including the U.S., which ranked 29th in science and 35th in math out of 57 countries that took the 2006 PISA test. In fact, American experts have looked to Japan and other high-performing countries such as Finland and South Korea for guidance on setting up the Common Core standards.

Japan should be careful not to overreact and become too narrowly focused on the PISA subjects of math, science and reading, says Lynne Munson, executive director of Common Core, an educational research organization in Washington.

Facing the prospect of teaching more material next year, Japanese teachers are pushing for smaller class sizes, which now can be as high as 40. The education ministry says it is considering the request and plans to hire more teachers.

"We're worried that this will just add more burden on teachers," said Takahashi of the teacher's union. "We already feel that we don't get enough time to prepare and be with the children."

She and others say that the textbook changes pale in comparison to what Japan really needs: a dramatic overhaul of its college entrance examination system—which few see happening soon because it is so entrenched.

"We need to break away from the past," says Takahashi. "There's a need to change the system so it's not based just on test scores. We need to rethink the entire system."

Environment

Hundreds set to join International Coastal Cleanup

Two volunteers collect this tire wheel during last year's International Coastal Cleanup in Greece.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

TOP TEN MARINE DEBRIS ITEMS

RANK	DEBRIS ITEM	NUMBER OF DEBRIS ITEMS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEBRIS ITEMS
1	CIGARETTES/CIGARETTE FILTERS	2,189,252	21%
2	BAGS (PLASTIC)	1,126,774	11%
3	FOOD WRAPPERS/CONTAINERS	943,233	9%
4	CAPS, LIDS	912,246	9%
5	BEVERAGE BOTTLES (PLASTIC)	883,737	9%
6	CUPS, PLATES, FORKS, KNIVES, SPOONS	512,517	5%
7	BEVERAGE BOTTLES (GLASS)	459,531	4%
8	BEVERAGE CANS	457,631	4%
9	STRAWS, STIRRERS	412,940	4%
10	BAGS (PAPER)	331,476	3%
	TOP TEN TOTAL DEBRIS ITEMS	8,229,337	80%
	TOTAL DEBRIS ITEMS WORLDWIDE	10,239,538	100%

SOURCE: OCEAN CONSERVANCY'S INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 2009

The CNMI community is coming out en masse tomorrow, Sept. 24, and on Saturday, Sept. 25, for the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup.

Some 41 groups have already registered to clean up Saipan's coasts and more are coming in every day.

As so many of the beach areas are covered, the Coastal Cleanup Team is encouraging groups to adopt school compounds, neighborhoods, roadsides and known illegal dumping sites. All trash on land will end up in the sea—let's cover the entire island.

The registered groups (as of Sept. 20) include:

- Rotary Club of Saipan
- Shirley's Coffee Shop
- Fiesta Resort and Spa
- Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
- Saipan International School
- Friends of the Mariana Islands
- Saipan Mayor's Office
- CTSI Logistics
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Pacific Marine Resource Institute
- Saipan Swim Club
- Brabu Pharmacy
- Winzler and Kelly
- D & Q Co. Ltd and Cosmos Distributing
- Office of Rep. Antonio P. Sablan
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School
- MVA/NMDOA
- NMC Environment and Natural Resources Organization
- Port Users and Operators Committee
- PDM Promoters
- Pacific Oriental, Inc. dba POI Aviation
- Century Group of Companies & *Saipan Tribune*
- DLNR
- PTK (Phi Theta Kappa)
- PIC Saipan
- Saipan Grand Hotel
- Marianas Water Works Corporation
- SSFM International Inc.
- Kagman Elementary School
- SSHS JROTC Manta Ray Battalion
- CNMI WIC Program
- The Office of Representative Kilili
- Northern Marianas Badminton Association
- Kagman High School
- Guangdong Development Co. Ltd.
- Grace Christian Academy
- IT&E and Shell Marianas
- Saipan Marianas Lions Club
- United States Coast Guard
- Marianas Trekking
- City Trust Bank

Tinian volunteers: All government agencies and schools will be out helping out on Friday, Sept. 24. Contact CRM Tinian to pick up trash bags and gloves.

Rota volunteers: Hundreds of Rota volunteers will be cleaning beaches as part of the Coastal Cleanup for the sixth year in a row! All groups should meet at 8am at the Round House to collect supplies.

Calling all Saipan volunteer groups! The CRM Office in the Springs Plaza on Middle Road will be open on Sept. 22-23 for trash bag, glove and marine debris data sheet handout. We ask all Saipan group leaders to stop in and pick up your supplies. ***(PR)***

A life-altering summer internship at DEQ

By SELYNA LEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

My name is Selyna Leon Guerrero. I am a recent graduate of Saipan International School and an incoming freshman at Knox College. I am spending the summer as an intern for DEQ's water quality laboratory under the Coral Reef Summer Internship.

It is necessary for the CNMI to build a generation of people who are both informed and concerned about the marine environment in order to preserve Saipan's remarkably vibrant marine ecosystems. The Coral Reef Summer Internship is a program designed to expose college students and graduates to the job opportunities available in environmental protection and monitoring and to educate them in the preservation of the CNMI's marine environment.

The DEQ Water Quality Lab monitors the chemical and bacterial contents of drinking water and marine water. They are a warning and check system that can be used to pinpoint problems in Saipan's coastal environments. For example, if a certain beach has a rapidly declining coral population, the water lab can test the water and compare it to years of previous data. Their analyses and statistical comparisons can pinpoint what is killing the corals, which could be anything from a sudden increase in suspended solids due to the erosion of a nearby dirt trail to atypical heat due to overall climate change.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Selyna Leon Guerrero spent the summer as an intern for DEQ's water quality laboratory under the Coral Reef Summer Internship.

As an intern, I provide assistance wherever it is needed. I help collect, prepare, and test water quality samples. In the process, I learn about the water that I work with both from the laboratory technicians and on a first-hand basis. If I cannot duplicate procedures that the technicians perform, I am given the opportunity to watch them at work as they explain the process. I am also given time to do research on the laboratory procedures and the chemical interactions that make them possible.

Before my internship, I had planned to pursue a double-major at Knox College in Physics and Statistics. After working with DEQ's water quality lab for a month, I have changed my choice of major. I plan to major in either Physics or Chemistry, minor in Environmental Studies, and continue my education in graduate school to eventually pursue a master's degree in environmental engineering.

My internship is only halfway through and I have already learned more than is imaginable about the marine world from a chemical perspective. I have developed a deep understanding, down to the molecular level, of our effect on the ocean. I encourage other students to participate in the internship, but to take caution. Those who work with the water lab WILL have an impact, and they WILL see the mark that they make on the marine world. Their perceptions of the world and their places in it WILL be swayed as they realize that if they could do so much over the course of one summer, a lifetime of dedication to the marine environment will allow them to achieve the impossible.

'Trashed' looks at people and their waste—next Friday!

Come learn about America's fastest growing business—the garbage business—at the next First Friday Films on Oct. 1, 6:30pm at American Memorial Park. A timely feature following this weekend's International Coastal Cleanup, *Trashed* is an eye-opening movie exploring America's relationship with its waste.

An official selection to four film festivals, including the 2009 Princeton Environmental Film Festival, *Trashed* examines the causes and effects of the seemingly innocent act of "taking out the garbage." *Trashed* is an informative and thought-provoking film everyone interested in the future of sustainability should witness.

"Pulitzer-price winning author Russell Baker once said 'The American dream is to turn goods into trash as fast as possible.' Nowhere is this better illustrated than in Bill Kirkos' film Trashed. This film is a must-see," said professor Raymond Benton, Loyola University.

Come and join us for this documentary and a discussion on the CNMI's waste management led by the Division of Environmental Quality. As part of First Friday Film's goal to encourage habits that are healthier for the environment 50 reusable grocery bags will be given to first 50 families at *First Friday Films*.

For your planning purposes, the movie is 20 minutes long. All "First Friday Films" are free and open to the public. For more information visit www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Drug case delays Paris Hilton from entering Japan

NARITA, Japan (AP)—Japanese officials kept Paris Hilton at Narita International Airport for a second day Wednesday while they decide whether she will be admitted to the country after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor drug charge in Las Vegas.

The 29-year-old celebrity was stopped by immigration authorities upon her arrival in Japan on Tuesday, one day after her plea, according to an e-mailed statement by Hilton's representative, Dawn Miller.

Hilton spent the night at an airport hotel after being questioned by officials. She was scheduled to appear at a news conference in Tokyo on Wednesday to promote her fashion and fragrance lines, but that appearance was canceled.

"We interviewed her yesterday and we may interview her again today. We are continuing the immigration process to determine whether she can enter Japan or not," said Kazuo Kashihara, an immigration official at Narita.

He declined to give a reason for the delay, but under Japanese law, immigration authorities are empowered to deny entry to those who have been convicted of drug-related offenses.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo declined to comment. The front desk at her hotel said calls to her room could not be connected.

Tokyo was the first stop on Hilton's planned Asia tour, during which she planned to visit Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and open a new retail store in Jakarta, Indonesia. Both countries have strict anti-drug laws and immigration procedures, and it was unclear whether Hilton would continue her travels.

Miller's statement said Hilton was disappointed with the scrutiny by Japanese authorities.

"Paris was contractually bound to her business trip and didn't want to let down her brands and many Asian fans," the statement said. "She intended on fulfilling her contract and is trying hard to do the responsible thing, but this is beyond her control. She is very disappointed by tonight's events."

Hilton appeared with Nicole Richie on the series "The Simple Life" and has since starred in another reality series and minor films.

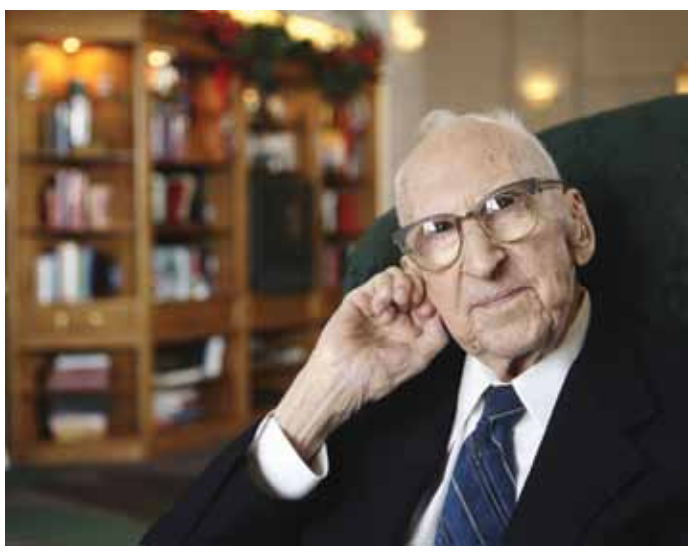
The Asia trip had been planned before Hilton's arrest last month in Las Vegas, when an officer found a small amount of cocaine in her purse. She pleaded guilty Monday to drug possession and obstructing an officer and was placed on informal probation for one year.

The terms of her sentence did not restrict travel overseas.

"We have no legal basis to restrict her from traveling throughout the United States or throughout the world," Clark County District Attorney David Roger said.

Hilton's sentence also requires her to complete a drug program, pay a $2,000 fine and serve 200 hours of community service. Her attorney said Monday that she planned to complete the service by volunteering with animal advocacy groups and children's hospitals.

World's oldest man marks his 114th birthday in US



AP

Walter Breuning is photographed in Great Falls, Mont. on Dec. 29, 2008. Breuning, believed to be the world's oldest man is celebrating his 114th birthday.

GREAT FALLS, Montana (AP)—A Montana resident believed to be the world's oldest man celebrated his 114th birthday Tuesday at a retirement home in Great Falls.

Walter Breuning was born on Sept. 21, 1896, in Melrose, Minnesota, and moved to Montana in 1918, where he worked as a clerk for the Great Northern Railway for 50 years.

His wife, Agnes, a railroad telegraph operator from Butte, died in 1957. The couple had no children.

Breuning inherited the distinction of being the world's oldest man in July 2009 when Briton Henry Allingham died at age 113. Allingham had joked that the secret to long life was "Cigarettes, whisky and wild, wild women—and a good sense of humor," according to Guinness World Records.

The Guinness organization and the Gerontology Research Group each have verified Breuning as the world's oldest man and the fourth-oldest person. Three women were born earlier in the same year as Breuning.

Robert Young, senior consultant for gerontology for Guinness World Records, presented Breuning with a copy of the book's 2011 edition that lists him as the record holder.

"Walter wasn't in last year's edition," Young joked. "He was too young."

The Great Falls Tribune reported that Breuning gave a speech before about 100 people at an invitation-only birthday party at the Rainbow Retirement Community, with a guest list that included Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and representatives from Guinness World Records.

Breuning was helped up to a lectern from his motorized cart, appearing somewhat frail but speaking with a strong voice.

He recalled "the dark ages," when his family moved to South Dakota in 1901 and lived for 11 years without electricity, water or plumbing.

"Carry the water in. Heat it on the stove. That's what you took your bath with. Wake up in the dark. Go to bed in the dark. That's not very pleasant," he said.

He said men and women may be able to enjoy life, but they can't be content without a belief or faith. His parting message to the crowd was one of tolerance.

"With all the hatred in this world, in this good world, let us be kind to one another," Breuning said.

Breuning has celebrity status at the retirement home, with visitors waiting in line to see him, Ray Milversted, 92, told the Tribune.

Tina Bundtrock, executive director of the Rainbow, said the home has adopted a policy of scheduling visits with Breuning by appointment, so he's not taxed by people dropping in to see him.

In Loving Memory

NICOLAS TAITANO SALAS

July 16, 1941 – September 15, 2010

Mass is celebrated each morning at 6 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral

He will be dearly missed and remembered by his:

Loving wife: Trinidad (Tannie) Dela Cruz Salas
Children: Portia & Martin A. Camacho (Luis Joaquin, Steveni Manuel, Kendra Deana & Martin John, Jr.)
Joaquin & Carleen (Darrel & Sunshine/Kayli, Brian, Jaclyn, Christian & Darian Jacob)
Annette & Dean (Paul Nicolas & Sylvester Kovin)

Brothers and Sisters:
Maria & †Vicente P. De Los Reyes
Jesus & Fidelia S. Salas
Joaquin & Maria D. Salas
Antonio & Avelina S. Salas
†Juan & Bernadita R. Salas
Rosalia & Jesus T. Guerrero

In-Laws:
†Pedro C. & Delgadina B. Dela Cruz
Margarita (Abig) DlC & Jesus C. Leon Guerrero
Lourdes DlC & †Vicente A. Sanchez
Natividad (Da) C. Dela Cruz
Ramon C. & Sophia T. Dela Cruz
Anthony C. & Vanessa Dela Cruz

In his new life, Nick joins his

Parents: Juan Rabago & Carmen Taitano Salas
Parents-in-law: Joaquin D. Dela Cruz and Ana C. Dela Cruz
Brothers: Jose, Juan, Vicente Salas/Obed, Francisco & Ignacio Celis
Sisters: Dolores & Rosa Mundo
In-Laws: Vicente Delos Reyes, Magdalena T. Salas, Francisca S. Celis, Gloria M. Celis, Francisca Celis, Ramon Palacios, Margarita V. Salas, Regino Mundo

Pedro C. Dela Cruz & Vicente A. Sanchez

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, 7:30 a.m., his remains will leave CHC to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers
THANK YOU
Tannie Dela Cruz Salas and family

Hoff the show: David Hasselhoff leaves 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was king of the beach on "Baywatch," but David Hasselhoff didn't fare so well on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 58-year-old entertainer was the first celebrity voted off the new season of "Dancing With the Stars." Hasselhoff and his professional partner, Kym Johnson, were ousted from the program Tuesday after performing just one dance.

"It's been a great ride," Hasselhoff said after learning his fate. "I feel bad for Kym because she worked hard trying to get me where I was going. I'm so proud that my daughters are here and they got to see me come this far."

"I think his daughters are more upset than he is," Johnson said after the show.

Hasselhoff said he joined the hit ABC dance competition because his family are fans. Daughters Hayley and Taylor were in the audience for Tuesday's show and said they were proud of his performance.

The judges, however, felt differently. They criticized Hasselhoff's cha-cha, with judge Bruno Tonioli calling it "a potpourri of insanity disguised as dance." The couple landed in last place, tied with "Jersey Shore" star Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino and comedian Margaret Cho.

Johnson said she was disappointed she wouldn't get to perform a ballroom routine with Hasselhoff, which might have suited him better.

NFL star Kurt Warner, who threw a pass to Hasselhoff during a taped segment on Tuesday's episode, said he was sorry to see the Hoff go.

"We're bummed," he said. "Going into this thing knowing somebody had to go home, that's the worst part of the whole thing."

Still, he and the other remaining contestants said they're turning their attention to perfecting next week's dance. Half the group will perform the quickstep while the other half do the jive.

Bristol Palin will be learning her new dance on her home turf in Alaska.

"Flying to Alaska takes a long time, so we're going to have that against us," she said after the show.

"We're going to be dancing in the aisles of the plane," joked her professional partner, Mark Ballas.

Palin said it was "a bummer" mom Sarah Palin wasn't able to see her "Dancing" debut in person.

"Hopefully she'll be here for the next week," Bristol Palin said.

Besides Sorrentino, Palin, Warner and Cho, the remaining contestants are singer-actress Brandy; actors Jennifer Grey, Florence Henderson and Kyle Massey; athlete Rick Fox; reality star Audrina Patridge and singer Michael Bolton.

Each will perform a new dance on Monday.

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, David Hasselhoff, right, and his partner Kym Johnson perform on the celebrity dance competition show, "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 in Los Angeles.

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Devil
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Chris Mesina, Geoffrey Arend
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The first in a series of collaborations from Media Rights Capital and M. Night Shyamalan comes in the form of Devil, a supernatural horror film based on an idea by the enigmatic filmmaker. Going off of a script by Brian Nelson is Quarantine director John Erick Dowdle, who handles producing duties with his brother Drew.

Alpha And Omega
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Justin Long, Christina Ricci
Children's, Family • Rated PG 13

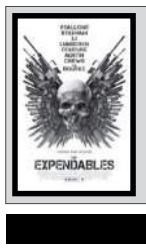
Synopsis
Lionsgate presents this animated tale of two wolves (voiced by Justin Long and Hayden Panettiere) trying to find their way home to their pack after being kidnapped. Christina Ricci, Danny Glover, Dennis Hopper, and Larry Miller also supply voices for the Crest Animation production, helmed by Anthony Bell and Ben Gluck from a script by Chris Denk.

The Town
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
Gone Baby Gone director Ben Affleck adapts author Chuck Hogan's Hammett Prize-winning novel concerning four thieves who are hunted on the streets of Boston by a determined FBI agent and a woman with the power to bring them all to their knees.

Resident Evil: Afterlife
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R



The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Holder: 'Mockingbird' has lessons for terror fight

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday Harper Lee's famous novel about racial injustice in the South, "To Kill a Mockingbird," still holds lessons for authorities who seek to fight terrorism while preserving the rights of innocent Muslims.

Speaking at the University of Alabama for a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of Lee's only published book, Holder described how Lee's novel illustrates that a system can "grind innocent people into the ground," something he said was important to remember in dealing with innocent Muslim citizens in the United States.

While many people recall the heroism of Lee's fictional hero, attorney Atticus Finch, in defending a black man wrongly accused of rape, Holder said they often forget that Finch's client was still convicted and, ultimately, killed.

"It's a book about injustice, a cautionary tale, but at the same time it's a book about courage," said Holder, speaking in a crowded lecture hall in the law school.

Later, answering questions, Holder defended President Barack Obama's decision to ban torture in the fight against terrorists.

"I do not think that in making that determination President Obama has weakened us in the least in our ability to be effective in that war," Holder said.

Lee, who is from the south Alabama town of Monroeville, wasn't at the ceremony. She attended law school at Alabama in the 1940s and never published another novel after "To Kill a Mockingbird" came out in 1960. It was turned into a movie starring Gregory Peck as Finch.

Describing Obama's commitment to civil rights enforcement, Holder said the Justice Department has asserted itself in the protection of disabled people, workers, students and religious groups and has prosecuted civil rights-era slayings across the South.

"As we have seen in recent decades—and, unfortunately, in recent days—the world has not yet run its course of intolerance and bigotry. Injustice remains. Divisions and disparities remain. Bias- and hate-fueled violence persists," Holder said.

Spokeswoman: Aretha Franklin's son severely beaten

DETROIT (AP)—Aretha Franklin's son was severely beaten at a gas station in Detroit, the singing legend's spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Eddie Franklin, who is in his 50s, was attacked Monday night, Gwendolyn Quinn said in a statement. A witness said two men and a woman may have been involved in the attack, according to the statement, which did not identify the witness or address a possible motive.

Quinn told The Associated Press early Tuesday morning she didn't have any information beyond the written statement.

A woman who was with Franklin told police she went into the gas station and when she returned, he had been attacked, police spokeswoman Eren Stephens said. The woman then drove Franklin to a hospital, dropped him off and headed to a police station to file a report, police said.

Quinn's statement said Franklin was undergoing surgery early Tuesday, but Detroit police said he wasn't at the hospital when investigators stopped by.

They were told Franklin "walked out on his own," Stephens said.

The AP left multiple messages for Quinn on Tuesday, seeking updated information. A hospital spokeswoman confirmed someone named Eddie Franklin was treated there but wasn't able to offer details. Stephens said it wasn't entirely clear what had happened and investigators want to talk to Franklin.

"We really need to talk to him, because he's the one who was assaulted," she said. "We would advise him to come in and make (a report), but it's voluntary."

Aretha Franklin, 68, known as the Queen of Soul, is one of the most honored musicians in American history, having won numerous Grammys, the National Medal of Arts, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Her hits include "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools" and her signature song, "Respect."

Eddie Franklin was considered a suspect in a 2002 arson fire at his mother's 10,000-square-foot suburban Detroit home, but Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox's office never charged him.

Eddie Franklin's lawyer at the time, William Mitchell III, described him Tuesday as someone who needs a lot of "support care—people to get him around from this place to that place" but did not explain exactly what that meant.

"Mrs. Franklin is very, very, very, very, very protective of him," Mitchell added.

Eddie Franklin also is a singer, having recorded in the past with his mother.

Oprah Winfrey speaks up on 'Sesame' season opener

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey will be sounding off when she lends her famous voice to the season opener of "Sesame Street."

Sesame Workshop has announced that Winfrey will voice an animated segment called "The O Show." In the spoof, the letter O will host her own talk show with guests including Otto the Orangutan and Ophelia the Octopus.

"Sesame Street" debuts its 41st season on Sept. 27 on PBS.

Other celebrities taking part during the season include Wanda Sykes, Jason Bateman, Colin Farrell and Katy Perry.

AP

In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.

Lohan satisfied after settling NYC E-Trade lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer says Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-un) is "satisfied" to have resolved her $100 million New York City lawsuit over an E-Trade television commercial featuring talking babies.

Lawyer Anand Ahuja said Tuesday the "Mean Girls" movie star reached a settlement with the brokerage before withdrawing the lawsuit a day earlier. Ahuja and an E-Trade Financial Corp. spokeswoman say the terms of the agreement are confidential.

Lohan had claimed E-Trade was referring to her in a Super Bowl ad that featured babies talking about a "milkaholic" named Lindsay.

Lohan spent two weeks in jail in California this year for violating her probation in a 2007 case involving drug use and driving under the influence.

E-Trade called Lohan's claims meritless. It said Lohan isn't the world's only Lindsay.

AP

In this July 20, 2010 file photo, Lindsay Lohan listens during a court hearing in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Actress Elisabeth Moss files for divorce

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2009 file photo, Fred Armisen, left, and Elisabeth Moss arrives at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show actress Elisabeth Moss has filed for divorce from her comedian husband after less than a year of marriage.

The "Mad Men" star filed for divorce from Fred Armisen on Monday in Los Angeles.

Her filing cited irreconcilable differences for the breakup.

The two were married in October but separated in June. The court filings did not offer any additional details.

Moss portrays career-oriented Peggy Olson on AMC's Emmy Award-winning "Mad Men." Armisen has appeared on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" since 2002 and parodies President Barack Obama on the show.

Cher ending Vegas show Feb. 5 after some 200 shows

AP

In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, Cher poses in the press room at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Cher's final curtain on her headline show on the Las Vegas Strip is set for Feb. 5 after about 200 shows.

Officials at the Caesars Palace hotel-casino said Tuesday that tickets for Cher's final run of shows starting Jan. 11 will go on sale Saturday.

The last show ends a three-year residency for the iconic singer known for over-the-top costumes, elaborate showmanship and hits spanning several decades.

Cher's departure from the 4,300-seat Colosseum theater will come about one month before Celine Dion returns March 15 to start her second engagement. Her first five-year run grossed more than $400 million.

"Cher at the Colosseum" features dancers choreographed by Doriana Sanchez and costumes designed by Cher's longtime designer, Bob Mackie.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

D'Onofrio back on 'Criminal Intent' for season 10

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Law & Order: Criminal Intent" is coming back for its tenth—and possibly last—season with former star Vincent D'Onofrio on board. USA Network said Tuesday that D'Onofrio, who left the series after season eight, will return as police Detective Robert Goren. "Criminal Intent," part of the "Law & Order" franchise created by Dick Wolf, started on NBC. Eight new episodes will air in 2011 and are intended to wrap up the series, USA Network said. But a USA executive and Wolf indicated that might change. An air date for "Criminal Intent" wasn't announced.

Al Sharpton to host new TV series on education

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rev. Al Sharpton will host a weekly syndicated TV program focusing on education. ESH Holdings, a new minority-owned multimedia company, says the half-hour news and information magazine, called "Education SuperHighway," will target parents, educators and students. Hosted by the well-known civil rights leader, the show will provide a forum for discussing educational issues, with political, business and social leaders taking part. "Education SuperHighway" will debut on Oct. 10 in more than 160 U.S. markets. It will be taped in New York and Los Angeles.

Mark Burnett set to produce a talk show for OWN

NEW YORK (AP)—TV producer Mark Burnett is creating a weekday talk show for Oprah Winfrey's forthcoming cable channel. The network said Tuesday that the show will have a panel format and feature multiple hosts. The show doesn't have a name yet and is scheduled to premiere in January. The talk show was first reported by The New York Post. Burnett, who can count "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" among his many credits, was already signed by the new network to produce a show that will search for the next big TV personality. Winfrey's cable network will launch on Jan. 1. Its full name is OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network. A joint venture of Winfrey's Harpo Inc. and Discovery Communications Inc., it will replace the Discovery Health channel.

Seth Meyers to return as ESPYs host in 2011

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seth Meyers is returning to the ESPY Awards as host next year. The anchor of "Weekend Update" on "Saturday Night Live" will handle the sports gig for the second consecutive year. The show honoring the year's best sports moments airs live on ESPN on July 13 from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles. The comic hosted for the first time this year, working jokes about Tiger Woods' sex scandal and LeBron James' move from Cleveland to Miami into his routine.

Special-needs kids build bridges of understanding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: As the mother of a child with special needs, my heart goes out to "Boiling Mad in New Jersey" (July 23). My daughter, "Kate," is also stared at in public. I, too, used to bristle at the unwanted attention, until I began to open up and talk with people. I found most of them to be compassionate and merely curious. Sometimes seeing Kate triggered their memory of a loved one who was affected by a similar challenge.

As often as I can, I take the time to do mini "public service announcements" and chat with folks who linger, look or approach. It's a great way to build a bridge between disabled individuals, who have much to teach, and the non-disabled, who have much to learn. The kids are my favorites. They'll openly ask what everyone wants to know and say what others are afraid to risk saying.

Kate is 16 now, beautiful inside and out. She's pure, loves unconditionally and always forgives. She's our teacher. Please tell "Boiling Mad" that time heals some of the rawness of a fresh diagnosis, and if she'll try to find the best in others, she'll usually be right.

HAPPIER NOW IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR HAPPIER: Thank you for your insightful letter. You are among many readers who shared similar views on transforming a "staring session" into a positive opportunity. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I worked with special-needs children for a number of years. I actually believe that it is good when people stare. It gives us a chance to help the child learn social skills.

Would "Boiling Mad" prefer everyone pretend her son doesn't exist? How horrible to isolate him like that. It'll make him miserable. The people looking aren't mean, they're just human. Children like to be looked at; it makes them feel important.

Her precious little boy doesn't have only disabilities. He has abilities, too, and developing them should be the focus of every activity she does with him. She'll be amazed at and proud of his growth.

KATHY IN KNOXVILLE

DEAR ABBY: My child has moderate autism spectrum disorder. Although he looks like everyone else, his extreme behavior brings stares and comments (mostly about my parenting). I now regard it as an opportunity to educate them about autism. I hand them a card explaining it that contains a link to the Autism Society of America.

This tactic, rather than ignoring people, is the way to go. If more people educated others, the stares and rude comments would become smiles and support.

JON IN BEAVERCREEK, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I'm one of those folks who "stare" at others. By no means is there ever a bad intent. I'm a people-watcher. I love watching people communicate in different ways, like signing. Whether someone is in a wheelchair or has a visible disability, I value each and every person.

Maybe "Boiling Mad" doesn't understand that many of us are willing to reach out, lend a hand or just be friendly. I wish to embrace, not ignore, and I hope my behavior isn't perceived to be offensive.

WELL-MEANING AND OPEN

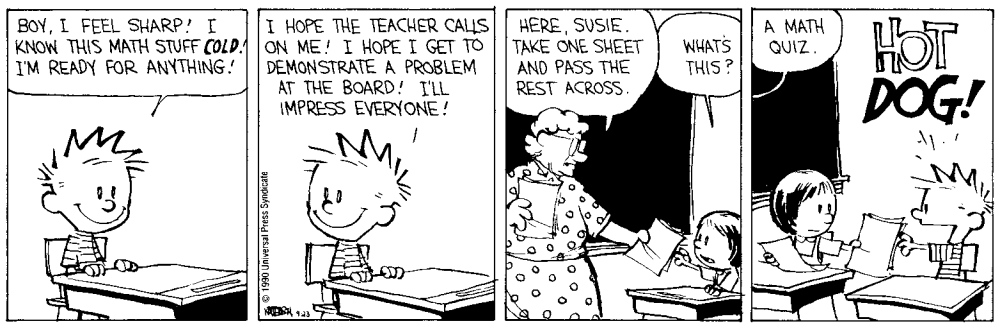
DEAR ABBY: As parents of a daughter with Down syndrome, we often saw people—mostly children—who couldn't take their eyes off our Sara. When she asked us why they were staring and we told her it was because she was so beautiful, she decided to do them a favor and introduce herself. In crowded amusement park lines and outdoor events she'd walk over and say, "Hi. I'm Sara. What's your name?" We have had many great conversations with total strangers and met new friends this way over the past 23 years. Today, Sara and her mom speak at conferences all over the world promoting the hiring of people with disabilities.

PROUD DAD IN VIRGINIA

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, I FEEL SHARP! I KNOW THIS MATH STUFF COLD! I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!
I HOPE THE TEACHER CALLS ON ME! I HOPE I GET TO DEMONSTRATE A PROBLEM AT THE BOARD! I'LL IMPRESS EVERYONE!
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HERE, SUSIE. TAKE ONE SHEET AND PASS THE REST ACROSS.
WHAT'S THIS?
A MATH QUIZ.
HOT DOG!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT TO DINNER, LIZ?
SURE!
JIM DAVIS 9-23
www.garfield.com
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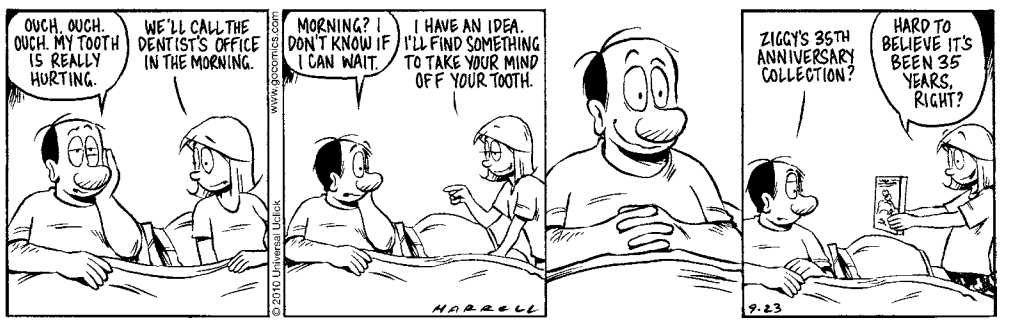
AND BY "OUT TO DINNER," YOU MEAN SOMETHING OTHER THAN...
...EATING THAT BAG OF CHIPS ON THE FRONT PORCH, RIGHT?
SHE MUST BE PSYCHIC!
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OUCH. OUCH. OUCH. MY TOOTH IS REALLY HURTING.
WE'LL CALL THE DENTIST'S OFFICE IN THE MORNING.
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www.gocomics.com
MORNING? I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WAIT.
I HAVE AN IDEA. I'LL FIND SOMETHING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TOOTH.
HARRELL
ZIGGY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION?
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN 35 YEARS, RIGHT?
9-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN BE ALONE?
SURE. YOU GO TO YOUR PLACE, AND I'LL GO TO MINE.
9/23
GLENN MCCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nasty stinger
5 Service-woman
8 Throat noise
12 Foe of Pizarro
13 Turkish title
14 Poi base
15 Quartet
16 Prune
17 Break suddenly
18 Prisoner
20 Going into sudden death
22 Arousing indignation
26 Pago Pago is there
29 Trigger's rider
30 Melody
31 Alternative to Windows
32 Pale
33 "Desire Under the —"
34 Mag. staffers
35 Cushion
36 Apportion
37 Not meant for reuse
40 Escape clauses
41 Speak from memory
45 First course, often
47 Lincoln
49 Salver
50 Persian sprite
51 A Gershwin brother
52 Frost
53 Seed coat
54 Felon's flight
55 Venomous vipers

DOWN

1 Internet cafe offering
2 In due time
3 Pond film
4 Seeming contradiction
5 Cardiff's land
6 Past
7 Movie subtitle
8 Bewildered
9 Court game
10 Historic time
11 Swab the decks
19 "— for Two"
21 Unfriendly
23 Gucci rival
24 Long ride?
25 Formerly, formerly
26 Took to court
27 "The King —"
28 The Show Me state
32 Christmas punch
33 "Mourning Becomes —"
35 Cauldron
36 Hearty brew
38 Student
39 Silver-scaled fish
42 Rainbow
43 Pack down
44 Spuds' buds
45 Hot tub
46 "— the ramparts ..."
48 Support system?

Solution time: 25 mins.

		P	A	C			C	B	S			
	F	A	L	A			O	R	E	A	D	
T	R	I	L	L			C	A	R	R	O	T
S	E	N	I	O	R	C	I	T	I	Z	E	N
P	E	T		R	O	U	G	H		E	N	E
			L	I	A	R			A	N	T	E
	B	U	Y	E	R		S	H	U	S	H	
M	O	R	E			W	E	E	K			
A	G	A		T	I	A	R	A		R	E	D
J	U	N	I	O	R	V	A	R	S	I	T	Y
	S	U	N	D	A	E		S	I	N	C	E
		S	C	A	T	S		A	N	K	H	
			A	Y	E			Y	E	S		

Yesterday's answer 9-23

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50					51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Alexander, 51; Bruce Springsteen, 61; Mary Kay Place, 63; Mickey Rooney, 90

Happy Birthday: Go with the flow if you want to make progress this year. There will be lots of opportunity if you are not trying to do the impossible. Simplify your thinking and practice moderation. Emotions will be close to the surface, making this an ideal year to face problems, resolve old issues and move in a new direction. Your numbers are 9, 16, 25, 28, 32, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Restrictions, frustrations and delays will lead to emotional reactions and unwanted changes. Don't fight the inevitable. It's what you are trying to hold on to that is holding you back. Instead, look forward with optimism. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put your effort into your relationships with people who have something to offer you, instead of those who are always taking. Put pressure on anyone who owes you financially or otherwise. Stand up for your rights. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may think you have the help of someone but, before passing along a job that requires detail and a deadline, consider taking care of it on your own. You will not be able to count on others. Steady work will result in progress. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you don't take advantage of the opportunities being made available, someone will take advantage of you. Procrastination will be your downfall. Love and romance are in the stars, so plan something special. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Push for what you want. There are opportunities available, but not if you sit at home. A personal problem will develop with someone who expects too much from you. Equality will be a must for a partnership. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There is a change in your financial situation that will lead to an opportunity to make a move or change the way you live. Love is in the picture and you will make the relationship you are currently in better or, if single, find someone able to reciprocate emotionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You cannot let anyone walk all over you, even if you want to maintain the peace. Change may be necessary when it comes to friends, peers or even relatives if you want to overcome an emotional situation that is getting you down. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A passionate approach to love, work and your surroundings will bring you high rewards. Putting your heart and soul into what you believe in and making whatever changes are necessary to hone your skills will be the route to take. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Diplomacy coupled with a little budgeting and know-how will allow you to charm your way into any situation you feel will aid you in getting your own way. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Expect to be burdened with responsibilities due to someone else's mistake or inability to fulfill a promise. Ultimately, it will help enhance your reputation and seal a deal you've been working on. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Hard work on your part will make the difference as to how your future will unfold. Formulate a plan that allows you to promote a skill you enjoy. Physical restrictions may get you down if you overdo it. Put time aside for love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An emotional matter must be dealt with if you want to move forward. It may be time to let go of the past. A love relationship can help you out financially and allow you to improve your standard of living. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, disciplined and intent on following through with whatever goals you set. You are creative and outgoing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6				9		8
			3	8		1		
2					7		5	6
	8					4		
	3			6			7	
		1					8	
8	5		9					3
		3		5	2			
1		4				8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	2	6	3	8	5	7	4
8	7	5	1	4	9	6	2	3
6	4	3	5	2	7	9	1	8
3	2	1	7	9	6	4	8	5
9	5	4	3	8	1	2	6	7
7	6	8	4	5	2	3	9	1
5	8	9	2	1	3	7	4	6
4	1	6	9	7	5	8	3	2
2	3	7	8	6	4	1	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'ROCK OF AGES' (MUSICAL) **Solution: 7 letters**

D	P	E	A	E	D	A	C	E	D	U	P	R	E	E
R	E	T	S	I	S	D	E	T	S	I	W	T	Z	C
O	R	H	Y	I	G	T	S	H	E	R	R	I	E	I
T	F	D	P	A	D	L	A	L	Y	W	O	H	S	T
A	O	R	E	A	W	A	A	C	A	N	J	U	T	S
R	R	E	A	N	R	D	R	T	E	L	N	Ⓛ	Y	U
R	M	W	T	N	N	G	A	A	S	E	B	Ⓞ	X	J
A	A	B	O	E	Z	I	O	O	P	O	G	Ⓤ	L	O
N	N	I	L	R	S	T	S	E	R	D	N	Ⓓ	M	U
O	C	G	R	K	D	N	R	E	R	B	I	Y	U	R
B	E	H	E	C	N	S	U	E	K	O	S	T	S	N
R	X	A	G	A	A	B	A	S	H	C	H	I	I	E
U	X	I	I	N	B	M	E	T	A	L	O	C	C	Y
O	A	R	N	D	S	O	O	Z	N	E	I	R	A	D
B	J	X	A	I	V	O	J	N	O	B	U	I	L	T

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Album, Bands, Big Hair, Bon Jovi, Bourbon, Broadway, Built, Candi, Choreographed, City, D'Arienzo, Decade, Dennis, Dreams, Drew, Dupree, Franz, Glendale, Hertz, Jaxx, Journey, Justice, Lonny, Loud, Metal, Musical, Narrator, Noize, Nostalgia, Paradise, Performance, Regina, Rock, Sherrie, Show, Sing, Stacee, Styx, Sunset, Twisted Sister, Words

Yesterday's Answer: Hobby

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 pdh for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-542-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 — **Closing Date: Friday, September 24, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-046	Trades Assistant	1	$11,036.00	Two-year	Water, Tinian
10-047	Accounting Assistant	1	$12,263.00	Two-year	Chief Financial Officer Div., Saipan

Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 — **Closing Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-048	Safety Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-049	Compliance Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-050	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	2	$19,425.00 - $25,981.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-051	Information Analyst (IT) Analyst	2	$34,176.00 - $44,429.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-052	Accountant	1	$34,176.00 - $41,011.00	Two-year	Accounting, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore. 25
NMIVA ta
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Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't
accommodate 'overstayers'
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
OPINION METER
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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

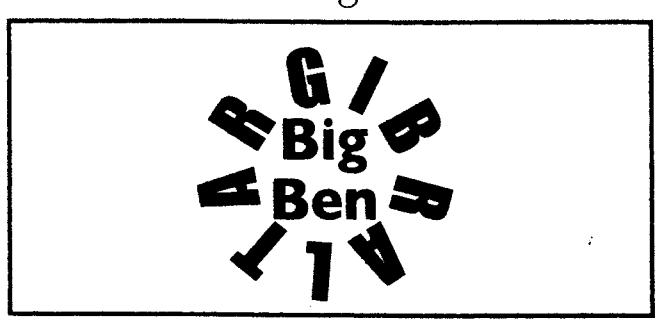
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Phillies beat Braves, close on NL East crown

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies increased their lead in the National League East division to five games by winning their ninth straight game Tuesday, beating the Atlanta Braves 5-3.

Roy Halladay (20-10) became the first Philadelphia pitcher since Hall of Famer Steve Carlton in 1982 to win 20 games in a season.

Jayson Werth hit a three-run homer for the Phillies, who trailed the Braves by seven games in late July but boast a 17-3 record in September to take a grip on the division.

Atlanta rookie Mike Minor (3-2) lasted just 2 1-3 innings in his eighth career start, allowing three runs.

Philadelphia Phillies' Roy Halladay, left, pitches to Atlanta Braves' Martin Prado in the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010, in Philadelphia.

AP

Reds 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Edinson Volquez allowed one run over eight innings to steer Cincinnati past Milwaukee.

Volquez (4-3) faced the minimum number of batters through the first five innings before losing his command a little by walking four in his final three frames.

Reds closer Francisco Cordero converted his 38th save, but two runs scored with two outs when right fielder Jay Bruce made a wild throw that also went through Cordero's legs.

Jim Edmonds homered off Dave Bush (7-13) to give Cincinnati a 1-0 but strained a leg muscle while rounding the bases.

The Reds moved eight games ahead of St. Louis and now have a magic number of four to clinch the NL Central.

Giants 1, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Matt Cain and three relievers combined on a two-hitter to give San Francisco a tight win over Chicago.

Cain and Chicago's Carlos Zambrano each pitched six scoreless innings, but the Giants did just enough to prevail. San Francisco finally broke through with one out in the eighth when Buster Posey homered off Andrew Cashner (2-6).

His 15th homer gave him 62 RBIs—the most by a Giants rookie since Chili Davis' 76 in 1982.

Ramon Ramirez (1-3) worked a perfect seventh for San Francisco. Brian Wilson pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 44th save.

Marlins 5, Mets 2

In Miami, Gaby Sanchez hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift Florida over New York.

With two outs in the eighth, Mets reliever Elmer Dessens (3-2) came in to face Hanley Ramirez, who lined a single to center as did Dan Uggla. Sanchez then drilled a pitch over the left-field wall for his 19th homer.

The loss officially eliminated the Mets from playing in the postseason.

Florida's Jose Veras (3-2) worked one inning and picked up the win despite losing the lead in the top of the eighth.

Nationals 8, Astros 4

In Washington, Ivan Rodriguez hit a tying homer off the left-field pole to spark a seven-run rally with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning as Washington stunned Houston.

Washington trailed 3-1 in the eighth when Rodriguez hit a two-run shot off Felipe Paulino (1-9). After the next two batters reached base, Adam Kennedy hit a go-ahead RBI single.

The Nationals wound up sending 12 batters to the plate. One run scored on a wild pitch by Paulino, and others came home on three singles.

Washington's Tyler Clippard (10-6) pitched a scoreless eighth to take the win.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 2

In Pittsburgh, Paul Maholm became the latest slumping pitcher to shut down fast-fading St. Louis as Pittsburgh won its season-high fourth straight.

The Pirates remain two losses from their first 100-loss season since 2001, but are 4-0 on a homestand that began with a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Maholm (8-15) came in with a 5.36 ERA and a six-game losing streak, but allowed two runs in seven innings.

The Pirates quickly got to Cardinals starter Jake Westbrook (2-4) by scoring three times in the first.

Yankees 8, Rays 3

In New York, The New York Yankees opened a 2-1/2 game lead over Tampa Bay in the American League East by beating the Rays.

Nick Swisher homered off James Shields (13-13) to key a five-run burst in the first inning as the Yankees cut their magic number for clinching a playoff spot to three over AL East third-placed Boston.

Tampa Bay nicked Phil Hughes (17-8) and two relievers, but never quite got the big hit it needed while stranding 10 runners.

Ahead 7-3, Chamberlain escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth by striking out one and inducing a line drive.

Twins 6, Indians 4

In Minneapolis, Minnesota moved within one game of clinching the AL Central title by downing Cleveland.

The Twins look certain to take their sixth division title in nine years.

Denard Span's RBI-single highlighted a four-run eighth inning after the Twins had trailed 4-2. Cleveland's Justin Masterson (6-13) allowed three runs in two-thirds of an inning to take the loss.

Minnesota's Glen Perkins (1-1) pitched one scoreless inning for the win while Twins manager Ron Gardenhire got career victory No. 800.

Orioles 9, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Ty Wigginton hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the seventh and Baltimore went on to a comfortable win over Boston.

Wigginton drove his 21st homer of the season just inside the right field foul pole off Scott Atchison (2-3), who came in after Clay Buchholz allowed one unearned run in six innings and proceeded to give up three hits while retiring only one.

Orioles starter Brad Bergesen (8-10) pitched six strong innings, giving up only one run. He has allowed three runs or fewer in nine of his past ten starts.

Royals 9, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Mike Aviles drove in three runs to help Kansas City defeat Detroit.

Rookie Jerrod Dyson scored three times for the Royals, who were aided by three errors by Detroit pitchers.

KC's Bruce Chen (11-7) improved to 3-0 in his past five starts, allowing four hits in six innings.

Detroit's Armando Galarraga (4-7) gave up five runs in 5 1-3 innings. He has only won twice in 18 starts since his near-perfect game on June 2.

Blue Jays 5, Mariners 3

In Toronto, Vernon Wells and Travis Snider hit two-run homers and Edwin Encarnacion added a solo shot as Toronto outslugged Seattle.

All three homers came off Mariners starter Luke French (4-6) who allowed five runs in seven innings.

Blue Jays starter Marc Rzepczynski (2-4) gave up two runs in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time in more than a month.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 4 for 4 with four singles and a walk, leaving him three hits from 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons.

Court revives SEC's lawsuit vs Mark Cuban

DALLAS (AP)—A federal appeals court revived the Securities and Exchange Commission's insider-trading lawsuit against Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban on Tuesday, saying it was "plausible" he had agreed not to sell company stock to avoid a loss after receiving confidential information.

The case was sent back to a lower court in Dallas for further discovery and, if necessary, a trial. The appeals court declined to rule on whether Cuban was wrong in selling the stock, saying that was a question for the Dallas court.

The SEC's civil lawsuit accuses the Dallas billionaire of selling shares in the Internet search engine company Mamma.com Inc. in 2004, avoiding a $750,000 loss after learning the company was going to offer stock to private investment companies at a discounted rate.

U.S. District Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater dismissed the lawsuit in July 2009, ruling there was no agreement binding Cuban to not act on this confidential information.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, however, said in its ruling Tuesday that it was "plausible" Cuban knew he was not to sell his shares until after the announcement of the offering. The court also acknowledged that under the law, it had to view the government's appeal in a manner most favorable to the SEC—in other words, accepting the agency's version of events.

"Under Cuban's reading, he was allowed to trade on the information but prohibited from telling others—in effect providing him an exclusive license to trade on" his confidential knowledge of the stock offering, the appeals court wrote.

"We are pleased with the court's decision and look forward to presenting our case," SEC spokesman John Nester said in a statement.

Hours after the appeals court ruling, Fitzwater denied Cuban's motion to have the SEC pay his attorney fees and expenses. Cuban's motion accuses the agency of misconduct and alleges he is a victim of wrongful prosecution because the SEC wanted to target high-profile individuals.

Fitzwater dismissed the motion without prejudice, meaning Cuban can refile it later if the SEC lawsuit proves to be without merit.

Cuban, who denies wrongdoing, released a statement from one of his attorneys, Stephen Best, saying the Mavericks owner was disappointed in the ruling.

The SEC "brought this case as a result of a pre-existing bias against Mr. Cuban ... and prosecuted the case against Mr. Cuban in bad faith," Best said.

"He is also confident that presenting a fully developed record to the District Court would clearly prove his lack of liability and demonstrate the SEC's bad faith in bringing this utterly meritless case against him," Best added.

According to the SEC, Cuban agreed not to share any information before Mamma.com chief executive Guy Faure told him in a phone call in June 2004 that the company planned to raise money through a private stock offering. The complaint says Cuban became angry because he said the plan would hurt his stock's value and ended the call by saying, "Well, now I'm screwed. I can't sell."

The executive chairman sent an e-mail to other Mamma.com board members after the conversation with Cuban, writing that the Mavericks owner "initially 'flew off the handle' and said he would sell his shares (recognizing that he was not able to do anything until we announce the equity)," according to court documents.

Cuban, who owned 6.3 percent of the company, sold 10,000 of his 600,000 shares on June 28, 2004. He sold the rest the next day, according to court records.

After the markets closed on June 29, Mamma.com announced its stock offering. The stock eventually dropped by 39 percent.

The Internet company maintains it told Cuban of the stock offering so he could decide whether he wanted to participate in it. Cuban, however, contends he was told to prevent him from trading his stock before the offering, according to the appeals court ruling.

Reid taps Vick as Eagles' starting QB

AP

This Sept. 19, 2010, file photo shows Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (7) scrambling out of the pocket in an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, in Detroit.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick earned himself a starting job by being—of all things—a pocket passer.

Vick will take over as the Philadelphia Eagles' No. 1 quarterback, coach Andy Reid said Tuesday, a day after he announced he would go back to Kevin Kolb.

"When someone is playing at the level Michael Vick is playing, you have to give him an opportunity," Reid said. "This isn't about Kevin Kolb's play. You're talking about Michael Vick as one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL right now."

Vick is considered the greatest scrambling quarterback in NFL history, but he won the job over Kolb by demonstrating he no longer has a run-first mentality.

Kolb missed the last six quarters because of a concussion, and Vick played well in his absence. Kolb was cleared to practice and was expected to run the first-team offense on Wednesday.

"Kevin is fine. It's not an injury-related issue," Reid said. "It's not about judging him. He's going to be a championship-caliber quarterback."

Vick threw for 175 yards and one touchdown and ran for 103 yards in a 27-20 season-opening loss to Green Bay. He had 284 yards passing and two TDs in a 35-32 win at Detroit on Sunday.

Kolb started two games in his first three seasons before he became the team's No. 1 quarterback after Donovan McNabb was traded to Washington. Kolb struggled in the first half against the Packers in the season opener, but he became the first QB in league history to throw for 300 yards in his first two career starts last year.

Though the Eagles have been grooming Kolb to be the starter since drafting him in the second round in 2007, Vick forced Reid to make a difficult decision by playing better than he did when he was a superstar in Atlanta.

"Michael did an exceptional job and my job is to evaluate the players," Reid said. "It's my obligation to make the proper decision."

Vick's start against the Lions was his first in nearly four years. A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Falcons, Vick missed two seasons while serving an 18-month sentence in federal prison for his role in a dogfighting operation. He signed a two-year contract with the Eagles before last season, then played sparingly behind McNabb and Kolb.

Vick has completed 63.8 percent of his passes and has posted consecutive games with a passer rating above 100 for only the second time in his career.

"His accelerated play was brilliant," Reid said. "This is what I think is right. He's back and maybe even a little better."

The knock on Vick used to be that he moved too quickly through his reads and took off running. He clearly benefited from watching McNabb operate the offense last year, and has excellent teachers in Reid and offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg. Vick proved against the Lions that he can be effective in the pocket. Despite getting sacked six times and being under constant pressure, he scrambled enough to buy time and find open receivers.

Given Philadelphia's struggles on the offensive line, Vick's speed and quickness is vital. Kolb has a quick release and can escape pressure, but few quarterbacks have are as elusive than Vick.

In 2006, Vick set a record for QBs with 1,039 yards rushing. His 10 career 100-yard rushing games are the most by a QB, and he ranks third behind Randall Cunningham and Steve Young with 4,094 yards rushing.

"I think his play has even exceeded expectations over the last two weeks," Reid said. "Very few quarterbacks can go out and play the way he played the last couple weeks and do the things that he did."

Source: Saints RB Reggie Bush has broken fibula

AP

New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush (25) is carried off the field after being injured in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in San Francisco, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Reggie Bush's broken leg likely will sideline him about six weeks but not the rest of the season, a person familiar with the injury said.

Bush was expected to be examined again Tuesday, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team has not officially updated Bush's condition.

The Saints had the day off after returning early in the morning from their 25-22 Monday night victory at San Francisco. Saints spokesman Greg Bensel said there were no planned updates on Bush's injury.

The bone in Bush's lower right leg was broken when recovered his muffed punt with 6:58 remaining. He had trouble catching the ball at windy Candlestick Park and was injured during the scrum after he dove for the ball and players landed on him.

"Last second it kind of shifted a little bit, just enough for me to drop it," he said. "I tried to recover it and somebody took my leg out. I don't know who it was, what happened or how it happened. I just know my leg got taken out. That's it.

"It hurt like hell," Bush said. "When I got back up and tried to walk on it, it felt terrible."

The injury capped a difficult past few days for Bush, who gave back his Heisman Trophy last week. The NCAA punished USC after concluding that Bush and his family improperly accepted money and gifts from sports agents while Bush played for the Trojans. Bush said he returned the award to end the controversy.

"It's been a pretty tough week," he said. "It's just the way life goes.

"I'm just trying not to think the worst and just try to stay as positive as I can in this situation," Bush said. "That's all you can do, hope for the best."

Bush had played well before the injury—a broken right fibula. He caught a 6-yard touchdown pass on New Orleans' opening drive and set up a field goal with a 43-yard punt return on the final play of the third quarter.

Bush finished with 30 yards on four receptions and 4 yards on five carries.

Detectives: Kenny McKinley spoke of suicide

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Denver Broncos wide receiver Kenny McKinley, who is thought to have killed himself with a gunshot to the head, had made previous statements about committing suicide, according to a sheriff's investigative report released Tuesday.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's report quoted one investigator as saying McKinley had been depressed over a knee surgery he had a month ago.

"He had made statements while playing dominoes shortly after the surgery that he should just kill himself," the officer reported. "No one believed he was serious."

The report provided no explanation for the source of the investigator's information.

The report also said McKinley had made statements about not knowing what he would do without football. It said McKinley had flown to South Carolina 10 days earlier to see his young son and had brought him back with him to Denver on Sunday night.

Two female friends who were taking care of his son discovered McKinley's body Monday and called 911. Detectives who responded to his home a few miles from the Broncos headquarters found McKinley's body with a pillow over his head and a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol on top of the pillow. They also noted a strong odor of freshly burned marijuana, according to the report.

The officers said the NFL Network was on the television in the bedroom.

The report also said McKinley was taking 500 mg naproxen tablets, which is in a class of anti-inflammatories called NSAIDS, but listed no other medications.

Arapahoe County Coroner Michael Dobersen said Tuesday that McKinley died of a gunshot wound to the head. He said a preliminary investigation "suggests the wound to be self-inflicted."

Brittany Boyd, the wife of former Broncos running back Cory Boyd, who was McKinley's best friend and college teammate, was one of the two women who were taking care of McKinley's toddler son when they discovered McKinley had shot himself.

She told The Associated Press she didn't know who told the investigators that McKinley had mentioned suicide—"That wasn't from us," she said—but added that she wouldn't be surprised if nobody would have taken such a threat seriously.

"If it had been said to me, I probably would have been like, 'Yeah, whatever, Kenny.' It would have completely gone over my head," she said. "That's not the type of thing he would say and if he did say it, that's not the type of thing that you would take seriously coming from him.

"Because of his personality, because of who he is, nobody would have ever believed he would have done it."

Boyd, who lives in Denver, said she flew to Columbia, S.C., on Tuesday to take McKinley's son, Keon, who is almost 2, back to the boy's mother, Shayla Lites.

Boyd said she had picked up McKinley and his son at the Denver airport Sunday night and nothing seemed amiss.

"He was just excited about having his son here. He showed no signs of depression, no signs of awkwardness. He was 100 percent himself," Boyd said. "He was 100 percent Kenny, laughing and joking, playing. And he was absolutely normal, he was fine."

Salbahe Bros lose but remain in control

Notwithstanding a 7-8 defeat on the road at the hands of D'Pirates Bar & Grill's IT&E Kamote last Thursday night, Buddies Bar & Grill's Salbahe Brothers is still 10 games ahead in first place in Saipan Electronic Dart Association's B Fanihi Division.

Kamote took three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games to give them an early lead against Salbahe Brothers.

After Salbahe Brothers swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches, both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches. Kamote sealed the automatic victory after sweeping both Partners Baseball games and the Salbahe Brothers took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

With a 68-37 win-loss record, Salbahe Brothers continues to lord it over the division followed by its conqueror Kamote at 58-47.

In other matches in the B Fanihi Division, Naughty Boys beat Boyz B, 8-7; Top Shooters took down No Fear, 11-4; and Sand Baggers hooked Barracudas, 11-4.

B Fanihi notables include a High-In of 134 by the Sand Baggers' Marvin Pangelinan and a 112 High-Out by the Salbahe Brothers' Jojo Guilas.

Wild Shooters take control of B Flame Tree

Over in the B Flame Tree Division, Buddies' Wild Shooters (66-39) moved past erstwhile leader Jonny's Umi Shooters (64-41) after a dominating 12-3 home win over bottom feeder The Flair's Get Sum (40-65) also last Thursday.

Wild Shooters won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches and swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket games.

Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out before the Wild Shooters swept all four Singles Regular Cricket matches for the automatic victory. After both teams won a Partners Baseball game, Wild Shooter took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double out match. Wild Shooters' Froilan Viray won all six matches in which he competed.

Other B Flame Tree matches Thursday night saw Dutty Guz beat Assahunz, 8-7; IDK 2 nip Onagas!, 8-7; and Umi Shooters blast Gaiana B, 10-5.

B Flame Tree notables include a 160 High-In by the Dutty Gunz's Phil Fejeran and a High-Out of 112 by the Assashunz's Dean Borja. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

The project will cater not only to Southern students, but also to other members of the community for a minimal fee.

"I think the new pool will be a great benefit to Saipan. Some parents find it difficult to travel all the way to Marpi each day for practice and their children have stopped swimming because of that. It will, therefore, be very helpful to have a pool at the south end of the island. I think we will see an increase in the number of swimmers on island and hopefully more swimmers staying with the sport as they get older once that obstacle is removed," said Lisa Kimball of Saipan Swim Club, which holds its practices and clinics at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

"One big part of Saipan Swim Club is our masters swimming and adult lessons. I frequently get requests from adults interested in improving their swimming. Opening the pool to masters and adults looking for swim lessons and training would be a great help to SSC and the community especially if there can be a variety of hours to accommodate different schedules," Kimball added.

Both and Kimball agreed that if the Southern pool will be a 25-meter facility, this will very helpful to upcoming swimmers.

"We will be able to hold the short course meet there. The short course meet is good for developing young swimmers to improve their techniques and increase experience," Kimura said.

"SSC has been very thankful for the use of the 50-meter pool at the Marianas Resort in Marpi and want to publicly thank them for the work they put in to maintaining it. For competitive swimmers, a 50-meter pool is the ultimate training place and long course is the pinnacle for competition. I have heard that the pool at Southern will be a 25-meter pool. If this is the case, it will add another dimension to swimming on Saipan by providing short course swimming, which will enable even beginner swimmers to take part in meets since they could do a 25-meter race instead of a 50-meter race as their minimum," Kimball said.

Both clubs said they are willing to assist Southern and other members of the community if a swimming program/course will be in place once the construction of the pool is done.

"Tsunami wishes to support the swimming program if it is needed. It will be our pleasure to help them," Kimura said.

"SSC looks forward to the new pool and joins Saipan Southern High School in seeing the facility fully utilized. We are surrounded by water and have so many options open for us to get involved in swimming for recreation or even for employment. To have a community pool whose primary purpose is not only to swim for recreation and exercise, but also to train lifeguards or instructors for the many hotel pools will be wonderful. Knowing how to swim is a skill that will bring multiple benefits to the people of Saipan," Kimball added.

AGUON

From Page 28

will improve their level of play and will make it easier for the CNMI to choose representatives for future tournaments.

In selecting players for the Micro Games, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands initially invited 25 cagers, but several of them missed the tryouts. When Aguon made the initial cut, he was left with 10 players and then allotted a few more slots for off-island ballers.

A few days before the start of the Micro Games, two players—Keoni Chariton and Quincy Johnson—who were consistently training with the team at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium were bumped off the roster in favor of off-island players Jericho Cruz and Jeremy Winkfield.

Cruz, who trained for a couple of weeks with the Nationals during the summer vacation, arrived in Palau a day before the opening ceremony, while Winkfield joined the practice sessions several days before the team left for Palau.

Cruz became the top scorer for the team in Palau, but still could not play beautiful music together with his teammates and ate up the playing time of Pete Iguel, who was among the top scorers for the Nationals in pre-Micro Games competitions. Winkfield simply struggled and could not fit quickly into the system.

When the Nationals returned to Saipan after a disappointing performance in Palau, they tried to heal their wounded pride through the Budweiser caging and they succeeded.

"We wanted to try and keep a perfect season and we did. I believe this is a record for the Budweiser caging," said Aguon.

When asked if conquering the Budweiser league was a sort of saving grace for his wards, Aguon had a mixed reply.

"Yes and no. Yes, because this proves that this is the best team and it was the team that represented CNMI. No, because the Micro Games is a totally different ballgame and their training was geared to that," he said.

WHISPERING

From Page 28

with her teammates or pumped her fist after scoring a point, led Whispering Palms' breakaway midway in the first set with her service. The Terms scored 10 straight points in the opening set with Race serving, turning a 9-all deadlock to a 19-9 lead.

The Knights moved within seven, 12-19, after breaking Race's impressive service game, but successive errors hurt Mt. Carmel's comeback bids. Mt. Carmel's last miscue happened when its two players looked at each other and became gun-shy, leading to a drop ball on their side and giving Whispering Palms the first set.

In the second set, Whispering Palms had the lead most of time with Auther, Yoshida, and Rastguiy picking up where Race left off before Mt. Carmel worked its way back into the game.

Auther and Yoshida scored several points off their tough-spin serves, while Rastguiy went for loose balls and on a few occasions manned the net, tricking MCS players attempting for dinks and spikes.

The Terns went ahead by as much as eight, 16-8, before Mt. Carmel's A.J. Evangelista scored in a succession of aces. Evangelista notched his fifth ace of the set, slicing Whispering Palms' lead to one, 21-22, and prompting Kennedy to call a timeout.

When the game resumed, Yoshida stopped the bleeding for Whispering Palms, as she made a return from the backline with the ball passing the net a bit and dropping a few meters away from the MCS frontliners

Yoshida scored another point this time off a service. She served again and MCS managed to return the ball near the Whispering Palms' net. Race, who reported back into the game after the Knights rallied back, chased the ball, hitting it with her back turned against the net. The leather then dropped to an unmanned MCS right sideline, allowing Whispering Palms to wrap up the match.

The Knights absorbed their seventh loss in 11 games.

SPARKS

From Page 28

the final period.

Marvin Rabauliman turned in 11 points in the last quarter for the G-Stars as the Saints got a little sloppy near the end, but they still managed to get their act together in the final minutes to secure the win.

Saints' Ben Iglesias and Kiyoshi led their team's balanced attack with 17 and 16 points, respectively. Rabauliman scored 19 points in defeat.

On Monday, the Sparks marched over the Rollers B crew right out of the gate and held their opponents to only 12 points in the opening period.

Swingman Sahj Hossain led the way for the Sparks with seven markers to help build a six-point margin, 18-12.

Things went from bad to worse for the Rollers in the second quarter as the Sparks jumped out to a 14-point lead, 36-22, while their offense was held to only 10. Sparks whippet-quick guard Ichitaro Faisao nailed a couple of 3-pointers in the second period and teammate Frank Mettao added another six.

The Rollers finally found some offense after halftime, but the Sparks' Hossain came back out and lit up the scoreboard with 10 points to null the effort; Faisao added six in support.

The Sparks eased up a little in the final period, while the Rollers' Joe Ada frantically managed a couple of treys and pumped in 15 points to match the rest of his team's total in the last quarter.

The Sparks, however, still finished with the double-digit winning margin thanks largely in part by Jonathan Norita coming off the bench at the end to score 10 points.

Faisao led Sparks with 22 points, while Hossain and Norita chipped in 17 and 12, respectively. Ada scored a game-high 27 points, while hulking center Savali Talalemotu scored 16.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

CK Saints' Ben Iglesias goes up for a put back in the fourth quarter of their Rotary caging game against G-Stars Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tuesday Game

CK Saints 73 – Iglesias 17, Kiyoshi 16, Aughenbaugh 12, Reyes 10, Brennan 6, Lizama 4, Cruz 2.

G-Stars 69 – Rabauliman 19, Kenty 15, Benavente 11, D Palacios 7, Devero 6, J Palacios 5, Manalili 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 39-33, 59-47, 73-69.

Monday Game

Sparks 80 – Faisao 22, Hossain17, Norita 12, E. Manglona 10, M. Manglona 9, Mettao 8, Aulerio 2.

Rollers B 70 – Ada 27, Talalemotu 16, Hambros 14, Deleon Guerrero 8, Darag 3, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 36-22, 59-40, 80-70.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	92	59	.609	–
Tampa Bay	89	61	.593	2 1/2
Boston	83	68	.550	9
Toronto	76	74	.507	15 1/2
Baltimore	61	90	.404	31

Central Division

Minnesota	91	60	.603	–
Chicago	79	72	.523	12
Detroit	76	75	.503	15
Kansas City	62	88	.413	28 1/2
Cleveland	62	89	.411	29

West Division

Texas	83	67	.553	–
Oakland	76	74	.507	7
Los Angeles	75	76	.497	8 1/2
Seattle	57	93	.380	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	91	61	.599	–
Atlanta	86	66	.566	5
Florida	75	75	.500	15
New York	74	77	.490	16 1/2
Washington	63	88	.417	27 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	86	66	.566	–
St. Louis	77	73	.513	8
Houston	73	78	.483	12 1/2
Milwaukee	69	81	.460	16
Chicago	68	82	.453	17
Pittsburgh	52	98	.347	33

West Division

San Francisco	85	66	.563	–
San Diego	84	66	.560	1/2
Colorado	82	68	.547	2 1/2
Los Angeles	73	78	.483	12
Arizona	60	91	.397	25

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 3
Washington 8, Houston 4
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 2
Florida 5, N.Y. Mets 2
San Francisco 1, Chicago Cubs 0
Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3
Arizona 3, Colorado 1
San Diego 6, L.A. Dodgers 0
Kansas City 9, Detroit 6
N.Y. Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 3
Toronto 5, Seattle 3
Baltimore 9, Boston 1
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 4
Oakland 7, Chicago White Sox 2
L.A. Angels 2, Texas 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 LeapFrog Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Leapfrog top finishers Ben Wood, left, and Eric Cooke pose for the camera after completing the race.

Runners head to the main road going to Banzai Cliff for the first half of the bike-run race.

Nap Dizon was the first biker to make it to the Paupau Beach compound.

Fred Camacho makes his turn toward the finish line.

Bikers in the 2010 LeapFrog Race head out of Paupau Beach parking lot during last Sunday's event.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger nears completion of the bike portion of the race.

Above, Joshua Berger raises his arms as he nears the finish line.

Above right, Several participants in the 2010 LeapFrog Race pose for a group photo.

Right, Butch Sublemente goes for a unique finish in the bike portion of the race, while teammate John Jenkins follows him.

Far right, Tina Goodwin, left, and Heather Kennedy sprint to the finish line.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tsunami, SSC upbeat on swimming pool project

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two swim clubs on Saipan welcome the approval of the construction of a swimming pool at Saipan Southern High School, saying this will help lure more people to the sport.

"We are so glad to have a new swimming pool on the island. As a coach, I'm happy to see more people have interest in swimming," Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

The swimming pool project, which Kimura learned will be a 25-meter one, was approved by the Board of Education early this month with its $200,000 funding coming from the community development block grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. Former Southern principal Craig Garrison proposed the swimming pool project with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. last year.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The two swim clubs on Saipan believe the CNMI may produce more swimmers like Rezne Wong, right, and Kai Staal, who will represent the Commonwealth in off-island tournaments once a new swimming pool at Saipan Southern High School is constructed.

Aguon hopes Nationals roster remains intact

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Nationals' Jose Tumaquip drives against younger brother Jomary Tumaquip of the Budweiser Saints during their game in the Budweiser caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coach Rufino Aguon is hoping members of the CNMI Nationals will still play together despite completing their campaign in the 7th Micronesian Games and the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League

The Nationals had their last game in the Budweiser caging last week, beating Hoegaarden in the finals, 74-68. Last month, Aguon's wards went to Palau to represent the CNMI in the Micro Games and went home with a dismal finish, placing last in the seven-team field.

"We will take a break for now," said Aguon, who started preparing the CNMI players for the Micro Games in January this year. However, the guys are committed to each other so I will not be surprised to see them playing together in other upcoming leagues."

Aguon added having players compete together in more tournaments and longer

See AGUON on Page 26

Sparks, Saints top foes in Rotary caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CK Saints debuted with a 73-69 victory over the G-Stars last Tuesday, while the Sparks cruised to an 80-70 win over Rollers B last Monday as the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League continued at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Both the Saints and G-Stars started off well on Tuesday, but the latter managed a three-point lead, 20-17, after the first quarter.

Saints shooting guard Don Brennan then started the second quarter with a couple of 3-pointers and another triple by forward Josh Kiyoshi helped Chalan Kanoa extend its lead to six, 39-33, at the half.

The Saints defense came on strong after the break and held the G-Stars to 14 points. The Saints doubled their lead again to 12, 59-47, going into

See SPARKS on Page 26

Whispering Palms sweeps Mt. Carmel

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race returns to Mt. Carmel School during their junior varsity game in the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the Whispering Palms court in Navy Hill. Whispering Palms won, 25-12, 25-21.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Whisperings Palms got its act together quickly, beating Mt. Carmel School in straight sets in the junior varsity division game in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the Terns court in Navy Hill.

The win came after Whispering Palms lost to Calvary Christian Academy last Tuesday. Whispering Palms now has an 8-2 record, absorbing its other loss at the hands of Marianas Baptist Academy during the first round of the double round-robin regular season.

Whispering Palms won the first set by 13 points, 25-12, then had to thwart the Knights' repeated rallies in the second set to pull off a 25-21 win.

The energetic Gabrielle Race did most of the damage for Whisperings Palms in the first set, while pint-sized players Negahr Rastguiy and Danny Auther and reliever Minori Yoshida provided stability to the team in the second set when Race was recalled to the bench.

Other members of the winning team are Nicole Arenovski, Aaron Lee, Lucy Park, Jennifer Tan, Maile Aldrich, Su Ah Cho, Steve Lee, and Troy Young. Heather Kennedy and Sheila Trianni are the Terns' coaches.

Race, who either exchanged hi-fives

See WHISPERING on Page 26